

S. Africa execution outrages humanity

BY FRED FELDMAN

The execution of Benjamin Moloise by the South African regime sparked outrage all over the world. Moloise was a 30-year-old Black poet and anti-apartheid fighter.

The United Nations, Commonwealth, and European Economic Community, and governments of countries ranging from the Soviet Union to the United States were among those calling on South African President Pieter Botha not to kill Moloise.

Moloise was hanged at Pretoria Central Prison on the morning of October 18. He conveyed a message to the world through his mother, Mamika Moloise, who was allowed to visit him the day before.

"He said I must tell the whole world that one day the Black people shall govern South Africa and that all the guerrillas who are dying now are dying for freedom," she said.

"Freedom is at hand," his message continued. "Tomorrow I will spill my blood for those who remain behind. The struggle must go on, nobody must fear it."

"We shall overcome," he told his mother with clenched fist raised.

The day before the execution, troops broke up a peaceful vigil of several hundred youths at Mamika Moloise's home in Soweto. They fired tear gas into her house.

On the day of the hanging, Moloise's parents were barred from seeing him. Police used dogs to keep reporters and others away from the prison gate.

The government refused to give Moloise's body to his parents, claiming that the body was the property of the state. Prison officials told Mamika Moloise that she could return the next week to receive "a grave number" for her son.

"I once felt sympathy with these people," she said, but "this government is cruel. It is really, really cruel."

Moloise was sentenced to death two years ago on charges of killing a policeman who had helped frame up opponents of apartheid. The African National Congress (ANC), which was outlawed in 1960 after trying for almost 50 years to win Black rights by peaceful means, took responsibility for the killing but said Moloise was not one of those who carried out the action.

Moloise's mother was joined at the prison gate by ANC leader Winnie Mandela, who showed up in defiance of a government order restricting her movements.

Mandela and Mamika Moloise also attended a lunch-hour memorial service in the heart of Johannesburg. As 500 mourners emerged from the service, racists pelted them with tomatoes and other objects.

Black protesters fought back. Two and a half hours of clashes with cops and other racists in the city's business district followed.

The regime is also holding the threat of the death penalty over the heads of 38 supporters of the United Democratic Front, a coalition of 600 anti-apartheid groups that has over 2 million members. It has led many protests. The trial of 16 on treason charges opened in Pietermaritzburg October 21.

Twenty-two other UDF supporters also face trial for "treason."

Blacks are intensifying their protests in response to the rising tide of government violence. Bishop Desmond Tutu says that 1,000 Blacks have been killed since the

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Nicaragua acts to block U.S.-organized terror



Militant/Michael Baumann

Funeral for Sandinista militia member killed by terrorists. The contra war against Nicaragua — organized, directed, and financed by U.S. government — has taken thousands of Nicaraguan lives. But Nicaraguan people are dealing severe blows to contras.

BY CINDY JAQUITH

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "This is a state of emergency without a curfew, or martial law, or tear gas, or restrictions on normal travel, despite the mercenary armies, the assassination attempts, and the sabotage" organized by the U.S. government against Nicaragua, Tomás Borge explained in a speech here October 17.

"It's a state of emergency to defend the workers, not to repress them; to defend the

Ortega at UN — Page 11

aspirations of the peasants, artisans, women, students, and professionals," the minister of the interior said.

The Sandinista leader was giving a speech at a celebration of the sixth anniversary of the founding of the Ministry of the Interior (MINT). He took this opportunity to answer charges in the international capitalist media that the state of emergency measures just decreed in Nicaragua are steps toward "Sandinista totalitarianism."

"This is a country at war," Borge explained. "It is a war that is turning this country into a nation riddled with bullet wounds, impoverished, and in a permanent state of alert."

The U.S. imperialists "want to wipe the Sandinista revolution off the map, using first the counterrevolutionary forces, or, as circumstances permit, direct intervention."

The state of emergency measures, he continued, are "an expression of the determination of the revolution to block destabilization efforts led by the U.S. government. Anything that harms the stability of the revolution is tied to the goal of liquidating the Nicaraguan nation and is, objectively, unpatriotic."

1982 state of emergency

The workers' and farmers' government here established a state of emergency in 1982 to cope with the state of war imposed on the nation by mercenary aggression spearheaded in Washington. Included in

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Tentative pact in auto strike

BY HARRIS FREEMAN

DETROIT, October 24 — A tentative agreement has been reached between the United Auto Workers (UAW) and Chrysler. The agreement came on the eighth day of a strike by 70,000 Chrysler workers that closed down all the company's operations in the United States.

Today's *Detroit Free Press* reports that under the new agreement quarterly cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) will continue and that \$2.99 of the current COLA will be added to the base wage scale. The big-business media says that this will give Chrysler workers immediate wage parity with auto workers at GM and Ford.

In addition, Chrysler workers will receive \$2,150 to compensate them for concessions made since 1979. Workers who have retired during the last six years will receive a \$1,000 payment.

The tentative settlement includes a 2.25 percent increase in base wages in the first year of the agreement and a 3 percent wage increase in the third year of the contract.

There will not be an increase in the base wage in the second year of the contract. Instead Chrysler will make one payment, equal to 2.25 percent of a worker's hourly earnings for the year.

The inclusion of two annual increases in the wage rate of Chrysler workers breaks the pattern the UAW negotiated in 1984 contracts with General Motors and Ford. GM and Ford workers receive only an annual lump sum payment in these contracts.

The pact between Chrysler and the UAW in the United States comes two days after the Canadian UAW reached a 23-month-long agreement with Chrysler. It gives Canadian Chrysler workers immediate wage and benefits parity with UAW members at GM and Ford plants in Canada.

The U.S. agreement expires one year later than the contract at Chrysler's Canada operations and a year later than the agreements at General Motors and Ford in the United States.

Chrysler was successful in having the package include lower wages and benefits for new hires. They will receive only 85 percent of full pay during their first 18 months of work.

Chrysler was also demanding major changes in work rules, a reduction of job classifications from 500 to 8, and less seniority rights. Those changes would eliminate thousands of jobs and create speed-up on the assembly line and in all production facilities.

Such changes are not part of the pact; the UAW agreed to study them.

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Socialist candidate for N.Y. mayor hails Columbia U. union struggle



Militant/Robert Cantrick

Andrea González

BY ROBIN MACE

NEW YORK — Socialist Workers mayoral nominee Andrea González saluted the struggle of Columbia University workers, who recently forced the university to settle their strike in a brief five days.

"Discrimination against workers who are women, Blacks, and Puerto Ricans was a key issue in this strike," said González. "This discrimination is a major way the bosses divide working people along race and sex lines. As long as the bosses are able to discriminate against women and the oppressed nationalities, they can hold down the wages of all workers."

González had marched on the picket line to register her solidarity with the strike.

The strikers, members of United Auto Workers (UAW) District 65, were forced out by Columbia October 17.

Women, Black, and Puerto Rican workers at Columbia have been relegated to the lower-paying clerical and cafeteria jobs, while jobs usually held by white men, which require similar skill levels, are better paid.

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Striking workers voice resistance to concessions

BY HALKET ALLEN

PHILADELPHIA — Socialists in this city have been selling the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *Young Socialist* at garment shops, auto plants, refineries, and railroads every week.

In addition to selling the socialist press, we also wanted to discuss with strikers the possibilities for building solidarity in unions that sales team members belong to.

At the Chrysler plant, where K

enough. Now that they're in the gravy and doing well, they don't want to give back the bucks they got out of us."

Another picket told me that "It costs us the same to buy a pack of cigarettes as it costs General Motors workers in Wilmington, but we're making \$3 an hour less."

"The UAW has been around for 50 years and we're going to make sure it will be around for another 50," another worker said.

We sold the *Militant* to pickets at a nearby bus stop where strikers were waiting for a ride home after their stint on the picket line.

One worker looked the *Militant* over and told me, "The strike will affect the whole community. We hope that more people will be interested and help out." Two UAW members bought copies.

Another struggle in the Philadelphia area is the six-week-old newspaper strike against the city's two biggest daily papers: the *Daily News* and the *Philadelphia Enquirer*.

This is the first time that all nine unions, representing 4,500 workers, have had a common contract



Militant/Phil Norris

SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

In addition to these regular sales we have been making a special effort to visit picket lines and talk to workers about the *Militant* at some important strikes that are taking place in this area of the country. We have traveled as far north as Trenton, New Jersey, and as far south as Wilmington, Delaware.

When the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) contract expired in September, we brought the socialist press to garment shops. When the Chrysler contract with the United Auto Workers (UAW) expired on October 15, two sales teams traveled 45 miles to a big Chrysler assembly plant in Wilmington, Delaware.

model cars are assembled, more than 4,000 hourly workers in UAW locals 1183 and 1212 are out on strike. They went out to get wage parity with General Motors and Ford workers. They are also demanding job security and an end to job combinations and the farming out of jobs.

One of the workers on the picket line told me that Chrysler bought this plant for next to nothing after the Korean War when it was a tank plant. The company has been milking it and the community ever since.

"It's take, take, take," said this worker. "We've been giving up big since 1979 and we've had

expiration date, and have gone out on strike at the same time.

The workers on picket lines are mostly older men because the companies have been automating and have not hired much in recent years. One member of the Newspaper Guild told me that the craft was "an old man's job now and no new blood has come in since they started to bring in the computers."

Another worker said the Typographical Workers union had gone down from 700 workers nine years ago to about 250 now.

"I don't mind progress," said one striker, "but there should be something in it for us."

Pickets bought the *Militant*. One said he didn't believe in communism, but wanted to read a paper that agreed with unions.

Stepped-up effort needed to raise \$125,000 fund

BY FRED FELDMAN

The drive to raise a \$125,000 Socialist Publication Fund is behind schedule. With three weeks left, \$98,000 is pledged and \$31,500 is paid toward the fund goal.

A concerted effort is required in the next weeks to get the publication fund on track and meet the \$125,000 target. Many more pledges are needed — at least \$27,000. And payments on these pledges need to be made at a stepped-up pace.

There is every reason to be confident that this effort will be made, and that the fund goal will be reached.

Interest in the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and other socialist publications is on the rise, as indicated by the success thus far of the *Militant/Perspectiva Mundial* sales campaign (see story on facing page). This reflects the fact that working people are more interested in and more willing to act on political issues.

The anti-apartheid movement, with the unions playing a vital role, is growing. Thousands of high school and college students are joining the fight against Washington's support to the South African regime.

Auto workers, steelworkers, and others have strongly resisted employer demands for more concessions in a number of strike battles.

The *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *Intercontinental Press*, and other socialist publications rely on the fund to continue operating at the current level and to expand

to meet new opportunities like these.

The role of the fund is highlighted by the upcoming publication, scheduled for February 1986, of *The Founding of the Communist International. Documents, 1918-1919: The German Revolution and the First Comintern Congress*. A successful fund-raising effort will help Pathfinder Press launch a broad campaign to distribute this important book, the second volume to appear in the series *The Communist International in Lenin's Time*.

In order to complete the fund-raising effort in full and on time, supporters of the fund need to step up their efforts. Every trade unionist, anti-apartheid fighter, opponent of U.S. intervention in Central America, and progressive-minded person who reads the socialist publications should be approached in the coming days to make a pledge or contribution.

Those who have made pledges should be encouraged to pay them now.

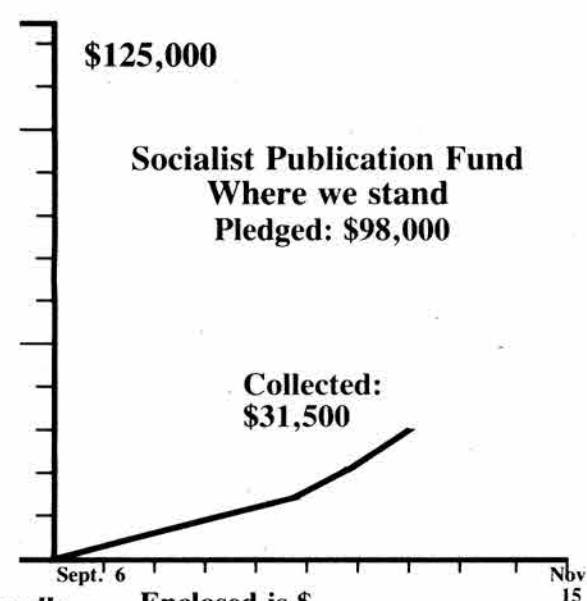
In many areas, this can be done while building Socialist Publication Fund rallies. These rallies will highlight the role played by the socialist publications in the anti-apartheid struggle and in the defense of the Nicaraguan revolution.

Contributions from *Militant* readers are an important part of meeting the \$125,000 goal. Readers who have not yet made a contribution, or a pledge to be paid over the next few weeks, are urged to fill out and return the coupon on this page.

In the September 6 issue of the *Militant*, we announced the launching of the Socialist Publication Fund with the goal of raising \$125,000 by November 15.

The purpose of the fund is to help finance publication of the *Militant*, our Spanish-language sister publication *Perspectiva Mundial*, *Intercontinental Press*, the Marxist quarterly *New International*, the French-language *Nouvelle Internationale*, Pathfinder Press books and pamphlets, and other important socialist publication projects.

Checks should be made out to: Socialist Publication Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, New York 10014.



Enclosed is \$ _____
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The Militant tells the truth — Subscribe today!



That's the way you'll get facts about Washington's war against working people at home and abroad: from South Africa, El Salvador and Nicaragua, to embattled workers and farmers in the United States. Read our proposals on how to stop the U.S. government's support for the apartheid regime in South Africa, its intervention in Central America and the Caribbean, and the employers' offensive here. Read our ideas on what it will take to replace this system of exploitation, racism, and sexism with a system that's in the interest of working people.

At the plant gates, picket lines, and unemployment lines, the *Militant* is there, reporting the news, participating in the struggle. To subscribe today, fill out the attached coupon.

Enclosed is: ☐ \$3 for 12 weeks ☐ \$15 for 6 months
☐ \$24 for 1 year ☐ A contribution

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Hearings open in Phila. MOVE bombing

BY CHAKO BENDELLA

PHILADELPHIA — On October 8, the Philadelphia Special Investigation Commission began hearings on the police assault earlier this year on members of the Black organization MOVE.

The 11 member commission was hand-picked by Mayor Wilson Goode, who ordered the May 13 bombing of a MOVE house in West Philadelphia. The murderous attack killed 11 people, including 4 children, and destroyed 61 homes.

The "crime" MOVE members were attacked for was using the last name "Africa," wearing dreadlocks, and living communally. They refused to conform to what city authorities deemed acceptable.

The commission is made up of lawyers, bankers, former cops, church leaders, and a couple of people from the Osage Street area where the siege took place.

The hearings are scheduled to last for four weeks. The commission will interview hundreds of people, and the hearings are open to the public. They are being broadcast live on television and radio.

Mayor Goode testified that he had no prior knowledge that explosives would be used in the plan constructed by the cops, the FBI, and city officials for the removal of MOVE members from their home.

He claimed that he found out about the plan 20 minutes before the bomb was dropped. He then authorized the bombing.

The mayor's testimony was sharply contradicted by former City Manager Leo Brooks and Police Commissioner Gregore Sambor. Both claimed that the mayor was well informed of the cops' intention to use deadly force, including bombs, to carry out the attack on the MOVE house.

Such a plan was first drawn up as far back as August 1984. One cop testified that the plan included using explosives to blow a hole in the roof of the MOVE house. Then cops would use tear gas to drive MOVE members out of the house.

It is also known that the cops had rehearsed the use of bombs several times in preparation for the siege on MOVE.

During the assault more than 10,000 rounds of ammunition were fired into the house.

Police Commissioner Sambor explained that there is no written record of the plan that was carried out because city officials wanted to be careful that it did not fall into the wrong hands. But Sambor testified that the mayor was fully briefed on all the major details of the plan in meetings that took place before the attack began.

Brooks also testified that he explained details of the plan to the mayor.

The commission began its work in the early summer months with closed-door hearings. During those hearings it was discovered that the cops had used a more potent bomb than they had earlier claimed. The cops had mixed a powerful plastic substance known as "C-4" with two sticks of dynamite. They had dropped the bomb from a helicopter onto the roof of the MOVE house. C-4 is used by the military for demolition of steel and concrete obstacles.

The cops have denied using C-4 and city officials have remained silent on the issue.

It has also become known that the cops shot at MOVE members who were trying to escape from the burning house, driving them back into the fire.

This was revealed by Birdie Africa, the only child to escape death, and one of only two survivors. In a May 25 statement to fire investigators, he said that MOVE members were twice forced back into the house because of cop gunfire.

In addition, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported July 28 that three fire fighters stationed in two row houses, with a clear view of the alley behind the blazing house, have directly contradicted statements by the cops who were part of the stakeout. The cops claim that an armed man fired at them while Ramona and Birdie Africa fled the house.

"I didn't see any rifleman," said one of the fire fighters. "We would have heard him. I would have known if someone was shooting right off the bat," he testified.

These and other statements already made to the commission make it clear that the cops and the government are trying to cover up their cold-blooded murder of the MOVE members.



Aftermath of May 13 bombing of MOVE house. Cops killed 11, including 4 children, and destroyed 61 homes of Blacks.

'Militant,' 'PM' drive picks up steam

BY HARRY RING

Our circulation campaign is doing great.

At the midway point we're at the 51 percent mark on single-copy sales. And this week the sale of subscriptions, which had been lagging, took a huge leap forward. The grand total for the week was 204 subscriptions to the *Militant* and 32 to our Spanish-language sister publication, *Perspectiva Mundial*. That pushes us from 29 percent of our goal to the 41 percent mark.

The campaign to sell 40,000 individual copies of the two publications, plus 2,000 subscriptions, is being sparked by branches of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance chapters across the country.

In Philadelphia, at a Puerto Rican street fair, 26 copies of *Perspectiva Mundial* were sold easily.

At an anti-apartheid rally in New Orleans, 70 copies of the *Militant* were sold, along with 26 of the *Young Socialist*. Four people bought subscriptions to the *Militant*, and one to *Perspectiva Mundial*. That was to a crowd of some 400 people.

Boston campaigners drove to the textile town of Lawrence where they sold 12 *PM*s in the Puerto Rican community.

At a state convention of the National Organization for Women (NOW) in Arlington, Texas, we sold 18 *Militants*, 1 *PM*, and 8 *Militant* subscriptions. One new subscriber took a batch of back issues and some subscription blanks home with her.

Phoenix had a bustling week. In addition to building a highly successful rally for SWP mayoral candidate Elen Lauper (25 striking members of the Arizona Farm Workers attended), they sold 30 *Militants* and 1 *PM* at a Scottsdale Community College meeting on Central America. Another 15 copies of the *Militant*, *PM*, and *Young Socialist* were sold at a nearby citrus ranch. And 16 *Militants* were sold at the regular sales at a copper refinery.

That's a Saturday sale when there's no more than a hundred workers going in. Sales of the paper at the refinery have regularly run between 8 and 12, reports campaign director Barry Fatland. But in recent weeks, the number has gone up. Part of the reason is our coverage of Central America and South Africa, he said. But also, "because the paper's getting better known."

The flare-up of campus activity around South Africa and other political issues is also reflected in our sales results.

Birmingham sales director Marty Boyers said a sales team went to the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa for the first time this year. They talked with some Black students who were involved in establishing an NAACP campus chapter, several Palestinians who were working on a solidarity action, and a woman pulling together a NOW chapter. In an hour and a half, 20 *Militants* and 11 *Young Socialists* were sold.

At the University of Alabama at Birmingham, they found that their Free Nelson Mandela and city divestment petitions made the table a center of attraction.

They sold 15 *Militants* and 5 *YS*s which,

Boyers noted, was not unique. They've been selling up to 30 there. How long has this been going on? Since fairly recently, he said. "We hadn't sold at the campus in several years," he explained. "There was almost no campus activity and we'd sell maybe one or two papers. But this fall we decided to go back with the special issue of the *Militant* on South Africa. The change was so apparent, and the sales so good, we've been going back regularly."

Newark kicked off a banner week, with 21 subscriptions sold. Fourteen of these were in a mainly Black housing project in the city's Ironbound district. Five of the subs were sold by a veteran campaigner, L. Paltrineri. We asked how she did it.

"South Africa," she said. "More than anything else, this is what's on people's minds. You know, people in projects are solicited so much, they're reluctant to even

open the door. But you tell them this is a paper with the best coverage on the Free South Africa Movement and almost every time the door opens.

"People want to know and they want to read," she added. "I've sold a lot of subscriptions, but never with this much political discussion."

"The last sub I sold," she said, "was to a young Black man out front. He agreed right away to take a sub. While he was filling out the blank, I asked him what he thought. He sat down on the steps and said, 'Let's talk about it.'"

"We talked for 20 minutes. He talked about racism, and the economic problems, there and here. 'I know capitalism has something to do with it,' he said, 'but I don't know what you do about it.' Holding his copy of the *Militant*, he said, 'I need a paper to get the truth.'"

SALES SCOREBOARD

(Week #5: Totals as of *Militant* issue #40, *PM* issue #20)

Area	SINGLE ISSUES		SUBSCRIPTIONS
	Sold this week Militant/PM	% of 10-week goal reached	Sold so far Militant/PM
Atlanta	93/2	48	21/0
Baltimore	70/0	49	15/0
Birmingham	104/0	59	24/0
Boston	68/24	40	13/7
Capital District, N.Y.	65/0	45	19/1
Charleston, W. Va.	50/0	30	10/0
Chicago	172/23	48	21/1
Cincinnati	113/0	59	8/0
Cleveland	80/0	50	9/0
Dallas	88/41	48	23/2
Denver	92/5	46	13/0
Detroit	87/0	45	43/3
Greensboro, N.C.	45/0	48	24/0
Houston	180/21	48	66/2
Kansas City	122/0	74	12/0
Los Angeles	179/46	63	48/13
Louisville	52/0	53	14/0
Miami	63/7	37	17/1
Milwaukee	81/9	55	17/1
Morgantown, W. Va.	37/0	52	5/0
New Orleans	74/1	45	29/1
New York	76/16	35	30/2
Newark	178/13	45	16/4
Oakland	63/23	52	14/3
Philadelphia	84/26	53	18/0
Phoenix	75/45	59	11/16
Pittsburgh	86/2	43	9/1
Portland	59/1	42	13/0
Price, Utah	11/0	27	6/0
Salt Lake City	27/6	49	7/2
San Diego	50/7	54	18/2
San Francisco	128/40	54	14/5
San Jose	62/6	36	12/3
Seattle	104/2	47	15/0
St. Louis	100/0	31	23/0
Tidewater, Va.	40/0	61	6/0
Toledo	73/10	54	30/2
Twin Cities	125/1	43	21/1
Washington D.C.	106/26	79	28/9
Total sold this week	3,362/403		
Total sold to date	18,392/2,194		742/82
10-week goal	40,000		2,000
Percent of national goal reached	51%		41%
To be on schedule	50%		50%

Seattle IUE local hits apartheid

SEATTLE — The following is a resolution that was passed by the International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE) Local 1002 in Seattle:

Whereas, in S. Africa, the struggle for trade union rights is inseparable from the struggle against the vicious and brutal apartheid system; and

Whereas, the jailing of 21 Black S. African labor leaders led to the call for peaceful disobedience demonstrations at the S. African Embassy in Wash., D.C., where hundreds of labor, political, civil rights, and religious leaders have been arrested. This situation has continued to intensify with striking miners being forced back to work; and hundreds of Blacks being killed and thousands arrested under the repressive State of Emergency detention law; and

Whereas, the policies of the U.S. government, and the multinational corporations which profit from the inhuman conditions of labor in S. Africa have been designed to perpetuate white minority rule in S. Africa,

Therefore, be it resolved that IUE Local 1002 calls on the U.S. government to:

- Impose a ban on all further investments and loans by U.S. business interests to the S. African public and private sectors
- Enforce the 1977 UN arms embargo against S. Africa, includ-

ing restrictions on the sales of "dual use" equipment, which has been used against the people of S. Africa

- Withdraw landing rights of S. African aircraft
- Ban the sale or transfer of computer and nuclear technology to S. Africa, and ban imports of gold coins
- Reimpose the export controls previously imposed on S. Africa

Be it further resolved that IUE Local 1002 calls for:

- Resignation of Mr. Joseph Swing as the representative of the S. African government in Seattle
- Support for the Sunday afternoon picketing of the Swing residence organized by the Seattle Coalition Against Apartheid
- Divestment of Seattle City employee pension funds from corporations doing business in S. Africa; and
- Discontinuing the servicing of S. African Airlines engine parts at General Electric in Seattle.

Boycott S. Africa!

NEW YORK — "Ban South African athletes," declared the back page headline of the *New York Amsterdam News*, one of the largest Black weeklies in the country.

Amsterdam reporter Howie Evans put it this way: "We've said it before. And now we're saying it again! Until the nation of South Africa joins the 20th Century, this nation should ... lockout South

African athletes."

Evans says: "Everything in our power must be done to overthrow the racist regime in South Africa. Sports-wise, the impact we can make would be to ban all South Africans from international competition."

Read 'Sechaba'

Published in exile, *Sechaba* is the official organ of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa. The ANC is leading the struggle against apartheid in South Africa.

Sechaba carries statements from the ANC, news analysis, and information on the situation in South Africa.

To subscribe for a year send \$12 to: *Sechaba* Publications, P.O. Box 38, 28 Penton St., London N1 9PR, England.

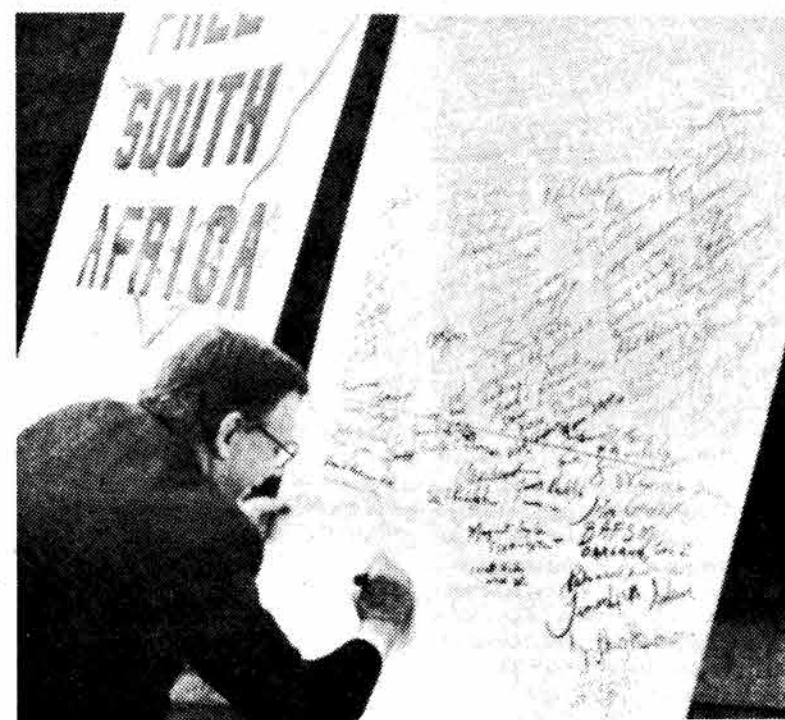
Antiwar editor fired in Detroit

BY ANGEL LARISCY AND ANDREW WALDEN

DETROIT — Students and faculty members at Wayne State University are protesting the firing of Patricia Maceroni as editor of the student paper, *South End*.

She was removed for "insubordination" because she refused to retract an editorial opposing U.S. intervention in Central America, and for refusing to accept military advertising.

She was fired October 3 by the



AFL-CIO News

Apartheid is "a crime against human soul," AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland said outside the South African embassy. He is shown here signing a "freedom letter" to Bishop Desmond Tutu that affirms labor's support for an end to the moral outrage of racial bias. The drive seeks 1 million signatures to protest South Africa's oppression of Blacks.

administration's Student Newspapers Publications Board (SNPB), which oversees *South End*.

More than 200 students, professors, and others packed the hearing room in her support at the session that acted against her.

In a September 3 signed editorial, Maceroni had stated, "The *South End* will not accept any United States military advertising for the duration of the 1985-86 school year. ... The U.S. government is instituting a policy of ter-

ror and sabotage not only on the governments of Central America, but on the people as well. The present involvement can only lead to armed conflict. ... If, by refusing to publish recruitment schedules we save one person from being 'the few, the proud and the dead,' the campaign will have been worth it."

On two separate occasions, Maceroni was ordered to accept the military ads. She refused twice.

World outraged at hanging of rights fighter

Continued from front page
wave of anti-apartheid protests began in September 1984.

According to official figures, an average of 3.5 Blacks have been killed each day since the state of emergency was proclaimed July 20.

More than 6,000 people have been arrested since that date.

In the township of Athlone, near Cape Town, police used a flatbed truck as a decoy October 15 to entrap and kill young Black protesters. They paraded it slowly up and down the main street until some Black youths reportedly threw stones at it. Then police hidden in crates leaped out and opened fire with pump-action shot guns. Three youths — aged 11, 16, and 18 — were killed and 15 were wounded.

"We have all sorts of little strategies," boasted a Pretoria police official who defended the murders.

When police refused to release the bodies of the victims, about 6,000 people attended a protest meeting in a mosque in Athlone. Athlone is a township reserved for the section of the Black population classified by the racists as Coloured. A large part of the Coloured population in the Cape Town region is Muslim.

As protesters filed out of the mosque, the cops opened fire. Abdul Karriem Friddle, 29, was killed. Some in the crowd were armed and fired back, wounding two cops.

Hundreds of troops were ordered into Athlone the next day after cops claimed they had been fired on six times during the night.

On October 19 about 10,000 people turned out for the funeral of Friddle. It was reported to be the largest Muslim funeral in a decade in South Africa. A statement of solidarity was read from the United Democratic Front.

In a show of solidarity many Muslims also joined in the funeral that day for the three youths murdered in the police-truck ambush. The funeral was held at an Athlone Methodist church. In a message to the mourners, the Rev. Allan Boesak — a UDF leader who is barred by the government from attending meetings — said, "Every time our children die, the true nature of the South African government is ex-

posed."

And in the township of Guguletu 5,000 gathered to bury five victims of the murderous regime.

In Atteridgeville, near Pretoria, at least 15,000 people attended the October 20 funeral of 13-year-old Moses Moepe.

In Kwazakale, a Black township near Port Elizabeth, soldiers attacked a group of stone-throwing youths on October 13. One soldier was killed — the first white soldier reportedly killed by protesters since the government launched the bloodbath against the anti-apartheid movement.

The refusal of the South African masses

to bow to the regime's violence is the cause of the government's growing international isolation.

Meeting in the Bahamas, the 46-nation Commonwealth — primarily made up of the British government and those of many of its former colonies — voted to impose minimal sanctions on South Africa, and to threaten more sanctions in six months if the regime does not begin dismantling apartheid.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher opposed sanctions. British capitalists have invested \$17 billion in apartheid. Under pressure, Thatcher

agreed to ban the import of Krugerrands — South Africa's gold coins — and end government funding of trade missions to South Africa. She succeeded in blocking more substantial sanctions.

"It was worth paying some to keep the Commonwealth together," she said, indicating the pressure the British rulers were under.

On October 14 Sweden's Transport Workers Union announced a one-month boycott of trade with South Africa. Union president Johnny Groenberg said the action was a warning to the Swedish government to end all trade with South Africa.

Chi. Black youth want right to birth control

BY NANCY COHEN AND MAUREEN COLETTA

CHICAGO — If you are a Black teenager living in the Robert Taylor Housing Project on Chicago's Southside, chances are you attend DuSable High School.

Last June a health care clinic opened in the high school, providing much-needed, free medical care. In this neighborhood, 56 percent of the population lives below the poverty level. The clinic is supported by a staff from Provident Hospital and is funded by the Illinois Department of Public Aid and four private foundations.

The clinic also provides contraceptives to the students, who would otherwise have to miss school to wait for hours at the Illinois Department of Public Health, or wait for up to two months for an appointment at Planned Parenthood.

During the first two months of the clinic, 169 students used the birth control service and 220 enrolled in a birth control education program. In all, 500 students received medical care at the clinic.

But members of Phyllis Schlafly's "Eagle Forum" and right-wing "right-to-life" groups don't think young Black women have the right to birth control. They want the clinic shut down. Schlafly is a prominent opponent of the Equal Rights Amendment, abortion rights, and school desegregation, while being a big backer of the death penalty and Washington's arms build-up.

Claiming to represent the "moral community," these groups put up picket lines at the clinic and showed up at an October 9 board of education meeting to demand that the clinic be closed down because it is distributing birth control on board of education property.

The clinic director, Dr. Doris McCulley, a 1965 DuSable graduate, told the meeting that "members of this community are crying out for" the free, accessible health care provided by the clinic.

Brenda Holmes, a parent activist who is the clinic receptionist and spokeswoman, told the board of education meeting, "We do not intend for outsiders to come in and ruin this dream."

The clinic has received strong support from parents and from the community, who are backing up the right of students to receive birth control. Seventy percent of the parents of DuSable's students signed consent forms allowing their children to receive all services provided by the clinic.

Velma Wilson told the meeting, "I had kids too soon. I had to quit school and I don't intend to have that happen to my daughter."

The meeting ended in a victory for the students and parents. The board of education voted six to five to keep the clinic open. A second, in-house health care clinic has been approved and is under construction at Orr High School in the Westside Black and Latino community.

School Board President George Muñoz has publicly declared his opposition to the dispensing of contraceptives, and opponents of the clinic have vowed to continue the fight to close it.

For the young women at DuSable, the issue is their right to choose whether or not to have children. Contraceptive rights, like abortion rights, are a precondition for a woman to be able to exercise effective control over her life.

At stake is the ability of these young Black women to control their own bodies, which will affect every other aspect of their lives, including their ability to continue their education. No one else has the right to make this decision for them.

Those who would deny them this right also have no proposals to help them support their children, to provide child care, or take other measures that would aid them in continuing their education.

Last year 300 of the 1,000 women students at DuSable had babies. A large number had to leave school. Many would have chosen to wait if birth control had been accessible.

In Cook County, which includes all of Chicago, 75 percent of teenage mothers do not graduate and 80 percent consider their pregnancies unintended.

The outcome of the fight of students and parents at DuSable High School will affect other young women. There are currently only four clinics at high schools in the whole country that provide birth control.

Oct. 11 National Anti-apartheid Actions



Banner at St. Louis October 12 anti-apartheid action

Militant/Jana Taylor

St. Louis: 1,000 march for a 'free S. Africa'

BY TONY DUTROW

ST. LOUIS — "We have to struggle against the big Bothas in South Africa and against all the little Bothas here in Missouri," declared Rev. Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He was speaking here at an October 12 rally against apartheid. Lowery was accompanied by Ben Gross, head of the United Auto Workers (UAW) Department of Civil Rights.

Following Lowery's keynote address, an estimated 1,000 demonstrators marched through downtown St. Louis behind a lead banner proclaiming "Free South Africa — St. Louis April Mobilization Coalition."

The march was dotted with hundreds of brightly colored printed signs bearing the UAW insignia and declaring "UAW opposes apartheid" and "Free South African trade unionists." A contingent from UAW Local 325 at the Ford plant carried a solidarity banner as did members of United Mine Workers Local 2295 and the Teamsters.

By far the most visible were the hand-printed signs made by workers from a variety of unions, including the American Postal Workers which helped found the St. Louis Labor Committee Against Apartheid.

For many people this was their first demonstration. A common sight at the assembly point and rally was groups of unionists displaying their signs while having their pictures taken.

A woman postal worker carried a sign saying "Free Winnie Mandela" while her young son carried another saying "Free Nelson Mandela."

A group of high school students came with their marching band standard and signs painted in their school colors demanding "No to apartheid!"

Students at the University of Missouri campuses in St. Louis and Columbia had held protests on October 11 to demand that the school divest its \$102 million in South Africa.

A forum on the St. Louis campus drew 50 activists who helped build the citywide demonstration.

Cleveland Robinson, secretary-treasurer of District 65 UAW, captured the feelings and mood of the crowd on October 12 when he said, "We are not only marching on behalf of the people of South Africa, but for ourselves too."

Colorado: hundreds condemn apartheid

BY BOB BRUNEAU

DENVER — Hundreds of Colorado anti-apartheid fighters participated in a full day of protest activities here October 11.

An all-day teach-in was organized by the Student Committee Against Apartheid on the Metropolitan State College campus. Hundreds of students attended the day of workshops and classes, with some presentations drawing more than 300 participants.

The Student Coalition Against Apartheid is helping to lead the growing movement to force the Colorado State University system to divest its investments in South Africa.

A spirited noontime picket was used to help build support for a "yes" vote on divestment when the issue comes up at the next Colorado University Regents meeting in Colorado Springs.

The success of the campus events and the importance of student involvement in the anti-apartheid fight was emphasized by several speakers at a Denver anti-apartheid rally held at the Macedonia Baptist Church.

Rev. Clive Miller, representing the Colorado Council of Churches, explained that the United Church of Christ voted last summer to fully divest from South Africa. He criticized the Reagan administration for its inaction and urged a broad divestment fight.

Denver City Councilman Bill Roberts compared the Black freedom fighters in South Africa to U.S. revolutionary war hero Patrick Henry, who said "Give me liberty or give me death."

Roberts added, "The South African people are saying give me liberty — not the Sullivan Principles." The Sullivan Principles are a code agreed to by many U.S. corporations that operate in South Africa which say they won't discriminate against Blacks at the workplace.

Rep. Pat Schroeder urged the audience to sign a letter to Bishop Desmond Tutu to show their support for the struggle of South Africans for their freedom.

The theme of solidarity between South African Blacks and liberation fighters here was emphasized by American Indian Movement speaker Daniel Zapata.

He was followed by a South African Presbyterian minister, Rev. James Beyes, who is currently touring the United States.

Beyes emphasized that "the South African class structure lives on violence. Violence is what apartheid is. Peace will not come to South Africa until justice comes to South Africa. Justice before peace."

The final speaker, representing the African National Congress of South Africa, was Senti Thobejane. "Our people are saying we want freedom now. All of it now. We don't want our chains reformed or made more comfortable. We want them broken," he said.

'Solidarity with those who risk their life'

CHARLESTON, W. Va. — The newly formed West Virginia Coalition Against Apartheid held a rally on the capitol grounds here October 11.

The participants wore black ribbons and held hand-lettered protest signs. They called on the state government and businesses to divest from South Africa.

Coalition cofounder Rev. Nat Turner Lacy called on West Virginians to work to end apartheid.

"Those of us who have experienced discrimination and still experience racism in the United States must stand in solidarity with those who risk life daily in South Africa," he declared.

The Rev. Sandi Drayton, president of the Charleston chapter of the NAACP, demanded freedom for South African political prisoner Nelson Mandela.

West Virginia Civil Liberties Union Director Maggie Beller said the Reagan administration's refusal to impose meaningful sanctions on South Africa was "a barometer of its true feelings towards racial liberties and civil liberties here in the United States."

Other speakers were Bobbie Adams of the National Organization for Women, Joe Powell, president of the state AFL-CIO, and Rod Coder, state director of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees union.

'End all ties with South Africa'

BY GEORGES SAYAD

OAKLAND, Calif. — Protesters from across the Bay Area mobilized October 11-13 to register their opposition to apartheid and demand that Washington end all ties with South Africa.

The actions were called by the National Anti-apartheid Protest Committee, a coalition of Bay Area anti-apartheid organizations.

The Oakland City Council declared October 11-13 Anti-apartheid Protest Days.

At the University of California, Berkeley, a thousand students assembled at Steven Biko Plaza, the site of last spring's sit-ins demanding divestment.

The theme of the rally was "If Columbia can divest, the UC regents can divest," referring to Columbia University's recent decision.

A rally of about 200 was held at San Francisco State University.

On October 12 more than 600 demonstrated in Oakland against U.S. ties with South Africa.

Wilea Gray, coordinator of the Bay Area Free South Africa Movement, welcomed the assembled crowd. Congressman Ronald Dellums addressed the demonstrators, declaring apartheid "must be brought down. The whole country has the responsibility to be involved in a coalition to achieve that aim."

He demanded "immediate divestment and a total embargo on South Africa."

Led by a monitor team provided by the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees

Local 28, the protesters then marched to Lowell Park where a rally was held.

Frank Ortiz, second vice-president of the United Farm Workers, explained that "The farm workers face the same oppressor, the same companies that exploit our brothers and sisters in South Africa."

Clara Flores of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front demanded "Embargo South Africa, not Nicaragua!"

250 students protest in San Jose

BY CAROLYN ALLEN

SAN JOSE, Calif. — More than 250 students and community activists gathered at the Mandela Amphitheater on San Jose State University campus for a rally against apartheid October 11.

The rally was sponsored by the San Jose State Mandela Coalition, several members of which were expelled last spring for their sit-in activities against apartheid.

Rusty Smith of the Melvin Trust Committee drew some parallels between the South African struggle and that of Melvin Trust, a 17-year-old Black youth who was shot to death by the San Jose police.

Bill Watkins, of the antiwar Bill Motto Veterans of Foreign Wars post, also spoke.

Other speakers, including students, teachers, Latinos, women, and Blacks, had a similar message — the struggle for freedom and justice in South Africa is closely linked to freedom struggles worldwide.

YSA builds anti-apartheid movement

BY PAT GROGAN

"We are all leaders now," Ellen Haywood, national secretary of the Young Socialist Alliance, told student anti-apartheid fighters in San Diego. Haywood addressed rallies at the University of California and San Diego State University on October 11, a national day of protest against apartheid.

Haywood told the students, "We have to keep organizing, keep educating, keep reaching out."

Haywood urged students to attend the Student Conference on South Africa and Namibia to be held November 1-3 at Hunter College in New York City. The conference will discuss strategies for the divestment fight and for building solidarity with the freedom struggle in South Africa. It will take up building the National Weeks of Anti-apartheid Action on March 21-April 6. "This is just the beginning," Haywood said.

"We must organize to demand a total break of U.S. ties with South Africa, a total boycott — shut down the consulates, get all the U.S. corporations and banks out, no trade, no arms, no diplomatic relations. Imprison the outlaw South African regime and free Nelson Mandela!" she said.

The *Voice and Viewpoint*, a San Diego Black newspaper, reported on Haywood's speech, saying the YSA leader identified the U.S. as being the key supporter, investor, and trading partner in South Africa,

thereby enabling the outlaw racist regime to continue its apartheid system.

Haywood is one of nine YSA leaders on national speaking tours this fall. Through these tours they help build support for the struggle in South Africa, call for an end to the U.S.-organized war against Nicaragua and the freedom fighters of El Salvador, defend abortion rights, and urge youth to join the YSA.

In the first month of the tours the YSA leaders have spoken to hundreds of young people and found a big interest in socialist ideas. A number of young fighters have joined the YSA.

The tour of Rena Cacoullos was front-page news in student newspapers at the University of Massachusetts and Boston University. In the past weeks more than 60 young people in Boston signed up to get more information on the YSA.

The tours will continue through November 19. For information contact the YSA chapter nearest you. (See directory on page 12.)

Nat'l Black Independent Political Party to host conference

BY RASHAAD ALI

Leaders of the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP) announced that they will host a conference in Washington, D.C., December 6-8.

The theme of the conference is "The fight against racism in the '80s from the United States to South Africa: A call for unity."

The conference will open with a Friday night rally. A leader of the African National Congress of South Africa will give the keynote address.

Conference sessions will include panels on international affairs, domestic political issues, and the fight for Black women's rights.

A session will also be held on building the NBIPP.

Glenn White, cochair of the NBIPP chapter in Washington, D.C., explained in a press release that "We want to discuss the way forward for Black people. We can no longer rely on the political parties of the millionaires. We must rely on ourselves."

For further information on the conference write NBIPP, P.O. Box 15556, Washington, D.C. 20003; (202) 543-1419.



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky

YSA leader Ellen Haywood

Whipped-up AIDS scare aimed at gay rights

BY HARRY RING

In San Antonio, Texas, 14 victims of AIDS have been formally notified by the city health department that they will be prosecuted on felony charges if they engage in sex.

That's simply one of the more extreme examples of what's being done to intensify and manipulate public fear about the illness, acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

A climate is being created in this country in which those with AIDS are increasingly being treated like lepers. The ultimate purpose is to brand all homosexuals as lepers. As with democratic rights in general today, gay rights have come under increasing attack. The AIDS scare is being used as a major weapon in that attack.

Pentagon takes aim at gays

So far, the biggest antigay move has been made by the Pentagon.

With authorization from secretary of war Weinberger, top Pentagon brass announced October 18 that all 2.1 million members of the military will be screened for AIDS. Earlier, such screening was begun for all those enlisting.

Members of the military whose screening tests indicate they have been exposed to the AIDS virus will be assigned to restricted duty even though they show no signs of actually having the disease.

Those who do have AIDS will be discharged.

Critics of the Pentagon's screening decision have scored it as an expression of the military's long-standing hostility toward gays.

Jeffrey Levi, of the National Gay Task Force, branded the blanket screening as "a dangerous precedent" that would encourage private industry to do likewise.

The first step in that direction has already been taken. On October 3 Enserch Corp., a Dallas-based utility outfit, announced it was requiring all present and future food-service workers to take the blood test indicating possible exposure to the AIDS virus.

The company has already put the head waiter in its company dining room on an involuntary "leave of absence" because he has AIDS. The worker, Terry Ulrey, plans to sue.

The victimization of Ulrey came despite a categorical statement by the federal Center for Disease Control that "AIDS cannot be spread through food handling or any type of casual contact."

And, responding to Enserch's screening decision, Dr. Charles Haley, a Dallas County health official, termed it "a bizarre reaction."

"There is no scientific basis for what they are doing," the doctor declared.

Such reasoned statements of medical fact are hardly likely to inhibit employers from pressing for employee screenings.

And it will inevitably contribute to increased discrimination in hiring.

A male job applicant is 29 and single? "The guy must be gay."

And that will go double for nonwhite job seekers.

Blacks, Latinos: biggest victims

Already, the illness itself is taking a disproportionate toll among nonwhites.

Which stands to reason. Whenever there is an absence of a meaningful response to a serious social problem by the government, oppressed nationalities are invariably in the front line of the victims.

It is reported that 25 percent of AIDS victims are Black, 14 percent are Latino, and 2 percent are other nonwhites.

In Prince George's County, Maryland, Blacks are about 40 percent of the population, but comprise nearly 70 percent of the AIDS cases.

In Philadelphia, where Blacks are under 40 percent of the population, they account for 50 percent of the AIDS cases.

For the right-wingers whose hostility to homosexuals is as virulent as their racism, the incidence of AIDS among nonwhites is grist for their reactionary propaganda.

One of the ultraright outfits attempting to exploit the AIDS issue is the Lyndon LaRouche setup calling itself the National Democratic Policy Committee.

In the Washington, D.C., area and elsewhere, this gang is pressuring school boards and public officials, demanding that teachers and others who deal with the public all be subjected to mandatory AIDS screening.

They are also calling for a quarantine of those stricken with the illness.

But it's not just the ultraright that is beating this drum.

Brushing aside objections that it would lead to victimizations, the Colorado Board of Health agreed unanimously that as of October 30, it would begin compiling a list of all people who test positively for the AIDS virus antibody.

The regulation requires that doctors and laboratories telephone the department whenever a blood test indicates the possible presence of the antibody.

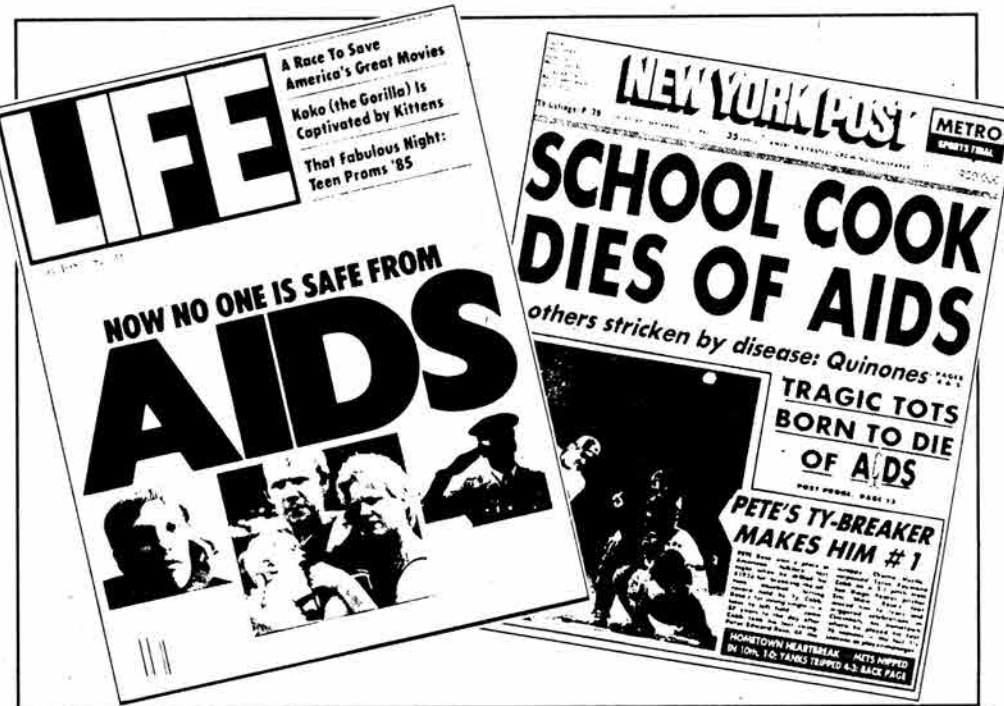
Meanwhile, Colorado's Gov. Richard Lamm declared against spending too much money on treatment of AIDS victims, observing that when you have AIDS, "Either you're dying or you're dead."

Cover for discrimination

Use of AIDS as a club against gay rights was seen in the Massachusetts legislature. In September the House killed a proposed gay rights measure by a vote of 88 to 65. Two years earlier a similar measure had been approved by a four-vote margin.

Those switching asserted gay rights was no longer a civil rights issue, but a "health" issue.

The sponsor of the defeated bill charged



These are some of the more lurid scare headlines being used by capitalist media to step up drive against gay rights.

the legislators were using AIDS as "a cover for discriminating against people."

The scope of the victimization is seen in the moves by the insurance industry to screen out applications by those deemed to be at risk of AIDS — that is, homosexuals.

In a memorandum, the Lincoln National Life Insurance Co. advised health and life insurance underwriters to use marital status, age, and residence in attempting to screen out potential AIDS victims.

The way to ferret out — and deny insurance — to homosexuals, the memo advises, is to look with a careful eye at divorced or single men between the age of 20 and 49 who live in New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and "probably" Houston, Miami, or Newark.

That's quite a category.

One alarming result of the AIDS hysteria campaign is that the pressure is beginning to manifest itself among union officials.

NEA officials buckle to pressure

On October 9 the board of directors of the National Education Association (NEA) took the position that school officials should be able to require AIDS screening tests from students and teachers when there is "reasonable cause" to believe they have been infected.

They also said school districts should have the right to decide on a case-by-case basis whether children with AIDS should be permitted to attend classes.

Mary Futrell, president of the 1.7-million-member union, argued that the rights of those with AIDS must assertedly be balanced against "the right of other students and school employees to be free from the

risk of exposure to a fatal disease."

This in the face of the repeated declarations by qualified health and scientific authorities that AIDS is transmitted only by sexual intercourse or blood transfusion and that it cannot be incurred by casual contact.

The NEA officials, though, are doing more than ignoring scientific findings. They are adapting to a political pressure which will prove injurious to their union, and all others.

Every union has the right, and responsibility, to protect the health and safety of its members. But it's wrong — and self-defeating — to buckle or retreat in the face of a scare campaign, a campaign designed not to safeguard public health but to further victimize a segment of society which is already the target of enormous prejudice and discrimination.

The stand taken by the NEA board does nothing to benefit the health of its members or the children they teach. Wittingly or not, it simply gives a hand to a right-wing drive against gay rights.

New York 8+ win community service instead of jail terms

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

NEW YORK — In an important victory for political rights, seven of the eight Black rights activists known as the New York 8+ were sentenced to 10 hours a week of community service. Judge Robert Carter announced the sentence October 17 to some 100 supporters of the activists who had packed the courtroom for the sentencing hearing.

The government had tried to frame up these activists on charges of conspiring to commit robberies and prison breaks. The defendants were never charged with having committed any crimes. They were acquitted by a jury of the conspiracy charges on August 5. They were, however, convicted of lesser charges of weapons possession and using false identification. These convictions carry a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

Charging that the activists were dangerous, federal prosecutors Kenneth Roth and Lorna Schofield demanded that the judge give them the maximum penalty.

In their statements to the court during the sentencing hearing, defense attorneys in the case reminded Carter that a number of community leaders, well-known educators, and even members of the jury had sent letters to the court requesting that the judge sentence the activists to do community work rather than prison terms.

Carter stated that these were only "interim sentences." He will review them in January.

One of the defendants, Collette Pean, was not sentenced with the others. Her case had been previously separated from the others when her court-appointed lawyer revealed he had never been admitted to the bar. Pean will go on trial this month.

Castro interview on Olympics in 'IP'

If the International Olympic Committee has its way, the 1988 Olympic Games will be held in Seoul, South Korea, the U.S.-dominated half of the divided Korean Peninsula.

In response to this politically inspired move — which threatens to spur a widespread boycott of the games and further tarnish the Olympics' image — the revolutionary government of Cuba has proposed that the games be held in both North and South Korea.

The November 4 *Intercontinental Press* features an article by Will Reissner on the background to this controversy, as well as an interview with Cuban President Fidel Castro, in which he discusses the Cuban proposal and gives his views on other problems of the Olympics.

The South Korean dictatorship hopes to use the Olympic games to further its own political fortunes, at the expense of the Korean people's desire for reunification. If the games are held in Seoul, Castro points out, "rather than uniting,

they will divide."

Castro also criticizes the Olympic committee's current bias in favor of the industrialized countries and its refusal to encourage athletes and sports in underdeveloped countries. He proposes that a "reformed Olympic movement" be run by the United Nations.

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Filipinos protest U.S. support to Marcos

BY TOM LEONARD

Filipino cops opened fire on a demonstration in Manila of some 3,000 farmers and their supporters on October 21. The demonstrators were attempting to march on the presidential palace to protest the low prices the government pays farmers for their rice. The action also opposed Washington's support for the dictatorship of President Ferdinand Marcos.

One 17-year-old student supporter was killed and at least 27 protesters were wounded in the murderous attack.

This is the second time in a month that working farmers have been fired on while participating in anti-Marcos demonstrations. On September 20 some 2,000 farmers, transport drivers, and unemployed sugar workers participated in a demonstration in the town of Esclante in Negros Occidental Province. Marcos' troops, together with mercenaries armed by big landowners, opened fire on the farmers and workers, killing more than 20 and injuring a score of other protesters.

In response to this kind of political repression, thousands of Filipinos in Negros Occidental are supporting the New People's Army, the armed wing of the National Democratic Front. The NDF includes organizations and individuals politically opposed to the Marcos regime.

The NPA is rapidly expanding from its stronghold on the island of Mindanao and is now operating in 63 of the country's 73 provinces.

In recent months anti-Marcos demonstrations have been demanding the removal of U.S. military bases from the country.

A recent *New York Times* report from the Philippines explained, "American strategic interests in the Philippines are now confronting a rising wave of sentiment against the bases. The movement is partly a resurgence of Filipino nationalism and partly a reaction to continuing American economic and military support for the embattled Government of Ferdinand E. Marcos."

Except for a short period during World War II when the Philippines was occupied by Japan, U.S. imperialism has maintained military bases in the country since the turn of the century when the United States became the colonial power there.

From the beginning of U.S. domination of the Philippines, the bases provided a military back-up for the U.S. rulers' exploitation of that country as well as for Washington's domination of Southeast Asia.

Following World War II Washington imposed two conditions when it gave up direct colonial rule over the Philippines. One was that U.S. citizens would be given equal rights with Filipinos to exploit the natural resources of the country. The second was granting the Pentagon a 99-year lease to maintain military bases there.

There have been periodic renegotiations over how the bases are used and the amount of compensation paid to the Philippines. The current agreement is scheduled to expire in 1991.

Today these bases are the strategic nerve center for the U.S. government's military policy in the Far East. They include Subic Bay naval base and the Clark Air Base —

the two largest U.S. military installations outside the United States. They have a combined military force of 13,700 permanent troops. In addition, Subic Bay is the main staging base for the U.S. 7th Fleet in the Indian and Pacific oceans. It includes 90 ships, 550 aircraft, and 70,000 troops. A high percentage of them are Special Operations Forces or counterinsurgency troops trained to put down popular revolts.

There have already been reports of U.S. military advisers actively directing Filipino army counterinsurgency maneuvers in Mindanao.

Despite this enormous military power and plans to spend some \$1.3 billion to further update it, Washington is complaining that the Philippines has grown lax in its responsibility to help militarily guard the bases.

The White House gave this alleged

Continued on Page 9



Bay Area welcomes tour of Kanak leader

BY ELIZABETH STONE

OAKLAND, Calif. — Susanna Ounei, a leader of the Kanak people on the Pacific island of New Caledonia, toured California October 4-10, building support for the Kanak struggle against French colonial rule.

At the University of California at Berkeley, Ounei spoke to an anti-apartheid rally of close to 1,000 students. She was cheered and applauded when she linked the struggle of the Kanak people to the struggle in South Africa, calling the French domination of her country "apartheid in the Pacific."

Ounei was also warmly greeted at a reception hosted for her in San Francisco by the American Indian Movement and other Native American organizations. Describing how inspiring it was to meet with Native American fighters, she said, "They are trying to do to us what they did to you. They have taken our land. They are killing our people. They are bringing immigrants into our country, making us a minority in

our own land.

"At home they give us a false picture of people here. They tell us about how the 'savages' were killed by the cowboys. We hear about Blacks who are great singers, who are great at sports, but we don't hear about the struggle here against racism."

Ounei received another warm welcome at a reception for her sponsored by the city of East Palo Alto at the Municipal Center. Standing in front of the black, green, and red flag which adorns the municipal chambers in this predominantly Black city, Ounei was greeted by the city's mayor, Barbara Mouton. "Your history sounds so much like what we have gone through here," Mouton said. "There are so many parallels. We want to do everything we can to help your struggle."

At other community and campus meetings in the Bay Area and Los Angeles, Ounei described the over 100 years of French brutality against the Kanak people.

"The French say I exaggerate when I call what they do apartheid," Ounei told a meeting at La Peña, a Latino community center in Oakland. "But it is their newspapers, like *Le Figaro* and *Le Monde*, that hide the truth of what they have done to us."

She then described how the French slaughtered the Kanak people, greatly reducing their numbers; how they stole their land; how they relegated them to reservations (known as districts); and how they made huge profits from their mineral wealth.

She also described the determined struggle of the Kanak people in response to this, pointing to the recent election in New Caledonia as reflecting the strength of the movement she represents, the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS).

The overwhelming majority of Kanaks voted for the FLNKS, which won three out of four of the electoral districts. At the same time, the FLNKS did not win a majority of delegates to the national assembly because the French rigged the election, allowing new immigrants, including French occupation troops, to vote.

Ounei reported news she had just received about the latest attacks against Kanaks in New Caledonia — the bombings by white settler gangs of a Kanak radio station and a building where Kanaks were working.

"The whites, they blow up our buildings, they torture our people, they send us to the jails, they kill our people, and they call us terrorists," she said.

"We are not terrorists. We are fighting to defend our people. We are fighting for the liberation of our land."

Ounei's tour received strong support from antinuclear and anti-imperialist activists in the Asian and Pacific Island communities in California.

At a meeting at the University of California, Francis Colpura, the president of the League of Filipino Students, read a statement being circulated by his organization hailing the struggle of the Kanak people.

At the same meeting, Wari Iamo, a student from Papua, New Guinea, pointed to the importance of linking the struggle against French nuclear testing in the Pacific with struggles for independence.

At a meeting at La Peña, a Samoan student took up the same theme. "We all hate the nuclear pollution," he said. "We don't want our children to be deformed. But as long as the U.S. is involved in the Pacific, as long as France is in the Pacific, they'll keep polluting us. They will pollute the air we breathe and the fish we eat."

Int'l protests hit slaying of PLO defender in Calif.

BY GEORGE KAPLAN

Anger and protests are rising against the assassination of Alex Odeh, the West Coast regional director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC). Odeh, 41 years old, was killed October 11 when a bomb exploded at the ADC office in Santa Ana, California.

Born in Palestine, Odeh was a poet, essayist, journalist, and teacher who became a U.S. citizen in 1977.

The day before the bombing, Odeh had spoken out on television in defense of Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat. He challenged the frame-up charge that Arafat was behind the hijacking of the cruise ship *Achille Lauro* and the death of a passenger.

The FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms say they are investigating the murder.

Nearly 1,200 people attended funeral services for Odeh October 15 in Orange, California.

His casket was draped with the Palestinian and U.S. flags.

Memorial meetings for Odeh are being held throughout the country under the auspices of the ADC.

James Abourezk, a former U.S. senator from South Dakota who is national chairman of the ADC, blamed the assassination on the anti-Arab atmosphere fostered by the U.S. government. "There is this sense of a lynch mob, from President Reagan on down," he said.

Arafat denounced the assassination in a news conference October 12 in Dakar, Senegal. He pointed to the bombing and the U.S. hijacking of an Egyptian jet on the same day as acts of terrorism. The murder, charged Arafat, "was carried out by a band of terrorists protected by the American administration. As yet, the United States has not arrested these criminals."

Mohammed Kamal, Jordan's ambassador to the United States, called Odeh's family to convey the condolences of King Hussein.

Many Jewish organizations, including the B'nai Brith, also condemned the assassination. The *Washington Post* published an editorial demanding that the murderers be apprehended.

The broad international protest led the Reagan administration to join in condemning the assassination. "To think even for a moment that there exists a justification for such heinous acts does grave injustice to the principles of political freedom upon which this country was founded," said White House spokesman Larry Speakes.

As yet, however, these words have not been followed up with action to bring the racist killers to justice.



Alex Odeh

ADC Action Alert

Broad support greets Ounei in L.A.

BY SARAH MATTHEWS

LOS ANGELES — Susanna Ounei, Kanak independence leader, addressed 70 people at a broadly sponsored community meeting here.

A message from the African National Congress of South Africa saluted the people of New Caledonia and affirmed, "We stand with all the peoples everywhere in the world who are struggling against imperialism."

Miguel Muñoz, from the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, brought greetings.

A speaker for the Alliance for Survival explained that even though he knew very little about the Kanak struggle, he solidified with their fight against the construction of a French nuclear base on the island, and their stand for a nuclear-free Pacific.

Linda Soloman and Judy Imai, of the Asian Pacific Americans for Nuclear Awareness (APANA), explained that the French continue today to test nuclear bombs on the islands in the South Pacific, thoroughly destroying the land and water.

APANA brought a slide show to the meeting exposing the horror that U.S. nuclear policy in the South Pacific has brought to the people of the Marshall Islands. People have been forcibly removed from their homes. They are now crowded on Eyebay Island in rickety, temporary housing with no running water. There are almost no jobs, and schools are totally inadequate.

A representative of the Big Mountain Support Group told how 20,000 of her people — the Navajos in Arizona — are fighting eviction from their land next year, as the federal government prepares to mine uranium and coal in the reservation area. She supported the Kanaks who are also forced to live on reservations in their own country.

The next evening APANA hosted a dinner. People from the Philippines, Hawaii, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam attended.

After Ounei's talk, a young Vietnamese spoke up. "I was so moved by your talk," he said. "I was only a baby when the French left Vietnam, but I heard so much about it — the violence and the torture. My heart is really with you."



Japanese women's rights fighters. Although women workers have history of struggle, bosses' offensive is hitting them hardest.

Japanese workers, women, oppressed: where things stand for them today

New Zealand socialist gives eyewitness report

The following article is reprinted from the August 23 issue of *Socialist Action*, a biweekly newspaper published in New Zealand by the Socialist Action League, the New Zealand section of the Fourth International. It is an interview with a leader of the Young Socialists, the youth group in political solidarity with the Socialist Action League, about his recent trip to Japan.

BY ANDY JARVIS

During July, the national coordinator of the Young Socialists, Etuale Sua-Filo, toured Japan where he was a featured speaker at meetings organized by the Asia Youth Conference.

The Asia Youth Conference is an association of anti-imperialist students and young workers based in Japan and a number of countries in South East Asia. It organizes annual gatherings devoted to building solidarity with struggles by working people in Asia and the Pacific for national liberation and social justice.

The Young Socialists' Japanese sister organization, the Japan Communist Youth, plays an active part in the Asia Youth Conference.

Socialist Action spoke with Etuale Sua-Filo about his tour of Japan.

* * *

Question. What were your impressions of Japan?

Answer. I think there is a greater awareness in New Zealand today of Japan.

There has been a lot in the media just lately because of the 40th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and there have been growing contacts and exchange visits between peace and antinuclear groups in the two countries over the recent period.

In addition, New Zealand capitalism is on a drive to increase trade with Japan, especially lamb exports. Japanese tourism to New Zealand is booming. And we even have the occasional Japanese film or television program.

Ignorant

Despite such examples, I think most of us in New Zealand remain extremely ignorant about Japan. Partly, this reflects the massive language barrier. But primarily, I think it is a product of national prejudice and bigotry that has been stirred up by the ruling class in this country over the past

century against Japanese people and culture, and against people from Asia in general.

Japan is a country geographically only a little larger than New Zealand, but with a population around 110 million.

Unlike the other countries of Asia, Japan is an imperialist country with a developed capitalist economy. It has a rich history of working class struggle, going back for more than a century — struggles by unions, by working farmers, by oppressed nationalities, antiwar struggles, and struggles for women's rights.

So I found my visit to Japan to be a rich educational experience. I think class-conscious fighters in New Zealand can gain a lot by developing greater links with their Japanese brothers and sisters.

Q. What was the purpose of your speaking tour?

A. I was invited by the Asia Youth Conference to speak on the opposition in New Zealand to U.S. nuclear warship visits and explain what lay behind the Labor government's antinuclear stand, which has had a lot of media coverage in Japan.

Kanak struggle

In particular I was able to talk about the Kanak independence struggle [in New Caledonia] and other struggles in the Pacific. There is considerable interest in Japan in the movement for a nuclear-free and independent Pacific, and right now in the Kanak struggle in particular. While I was there it was decided to publish the pamphlet by FLNKS [Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front] leader Susanna Ounei, *For Kanak Independence*, in Japanese.

There were actually four conferences that were held and which I spoke at — in Tokyo, Osaka, Fukuoka, and Sendai. Also addressing these meetings were representatives of anti-apartheid, antiwar and antinuclear organizations in Japan; trade unionists; two activists who had just visited Nicaragua and brought back slides illustrating the revolution there; leaders of the oppressed Korean community in Japan; and leaders of the Narita farmers' struggle.

Narita farmers

Narita is the site of the new Tokyo international airport. For 20 years now the peasant farmers of Narita have been waging a struggle against the confiscation of their

land by the government to make way for this airport.

This has at times been a very fierce and bloody struggle involving pitched battles with the cops, with severe injuries and even deaths on both sides. It is still going on. In fact, a new round of battles is now looming, with the Japanese government pushing ahead with plans to construct a further two runways at Narita.

During my visit I was pleased to be able to spend some time at Narita, staying with local farmers and talking with leaders of this important struggle.

I was also able to spend some time in the area around Sendai, which is in the north of the main island of Honshu. This is an important industrial area, and I was able to meet with workers there and addressed a union meeting of railway workers.

As well, throughout my stay, I was able to meet many members of the Japan Communist Youth and its parent organization, the Japan Revolutionary Communist League (the Japanese section of the Fourth International). In this way I was able to learn about the political struggles of Japanese working people.

Q. Could you tell us a little about the Asia Youth Conference itself?

A. The Asia Youth Conference was formed in 1973 to help forge solidarity with anti-imperialist struggles in South East Asia, in particular those against Japanese imperialism.

This was the 12th year in a row that these regional conferences have been held, either in Japan or neighboring countries. In all, about 800 people attended the four meetings.

Solidarity campaigns

The participants decided on four central campaigns for the coming year: solidarity with the Nicaraguan revolution; solidarity with the Kanak independence struggle and the movement for a nuclear-free and independent Pacific; solidarity with the workers and farmers of the Philippines and South Korea against the dictatorships in those countries; and solidarity with the Narita farmers' struggle, which was viewed as a vanguard struggle against Japanese imperialism inside Japan itself.

Q. What is the situation facing the Japanese labor movement?

A. Like workers here, Japanese workers

are under attack from the bosses and the government.

Restructuring of industry has meant attacks on wages, and rising job losses and insecurity, although proportionally unemployment is not as high as in many other imperialist countries.

One of the big attacks right now is centered on the public sector of the economy. The government of Prime Minister [Yasuhiro] Nakasone has initiated major cutbacks in spending on social services. As well, it is selling a number of publicly owned enterprises to private capitalists.

This is expected to have a big effect on workers in state-owned enterprises like the railways and post office, and local body services like public transport. Many will lose their jobs. It is also seen as an attack on the unions in these areas, which have traditionally been viewed as more militant.

In response to attacks such as these, I was told, the majority leadership of the labor movement in Japan has moved increasingly to the right over the past decade. They have failed to organize any resistance, and have increasingly fallen in line behind government policy.

The labor movement in Japan is organized differently to what we are used to in New Zealand.

Firstly, there are two main mass workers' parties — the Socialist Party and the Communist Party, both of which pursue reformist, procapitalist policies.

There are a number of competing national union federations. Sohyo (the General Council of Trade Unions) has traditionally been the largest of these, and is aligned to the Socialist Party.

It is now facing a major challenge from the new Japan Private Trade Union Council, which was set up three years ago on the initiative of right-wing union officials backed by the bosses. This federation is based in steel, car, and other big private industries and has been growing rapidly as Sohyo has come under intensifying attacks from the employers and the government.

There are also other unions, nationally and locally, which are separate from these federations. About 30 percent of the work force is unionized.

Q. You mentioned before the struggles of oppressed nationalities in Japan. I suspect most people would not be aware that there are oppressed peoples in Japan.

A. There are three main oppressed nationalities in Japan that I learned about during my trip.

In the far north, on the island of Hokkaido, there are the Ainu people — an indigenous, tribal people conquered by the Japanese.

Buraku people

Another is the Buraku people. Strictly speaking, the Buraku are a caste, like the "untouchables" in India. This is one of the many hangovers of feudalism that remain in Japan.

In precapitalist Japan the Buraku were the lowest-ranking class. When capitalism replaced feudalism during the second half of the 19th century, it retained and institutionalized the discrimination against these people.

There are about 3 to 4 million Buraku people in Japan today. They are primarily urban, working-class people. But because of the discrimination they suffer, they get the worst-paid jobs and are hardest-hit by unemployment. They face discrimination

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Above, one of ongoing demonstrations against Japan's Alien Registration Law, which is used to oppress those of Korean ancestry. Left, Asia Youth Conference held in Japan.

Why Nicaraguan workers, farmers join militia



Fifth anniversary of Sandinista People's Militia in Managua, February 1985. Workers, farmers, youth, women volunteer to defend gains won in revolution.

BY TOM FISKE

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The old man wore work clothes and carried a rifle. He was 74 years old. "I am a peasant in a cooperative. I volunteered to be in the militia. I am here because Sandino taught us that we had to fight in order to be free." He was referring to Augusto César Sandino, Nicaragua's national hero.

We were on a military training exercise in a field of corn and sorghum on the outskirts of Managua, near the shore of Lake Xolatlán. It was 8 p.m. on a Saturday night and already very dark, except for the light provided by the moon.

Thousands of troops of the Sandinista People's Militia were involved in a three-mile training march. I was along to learn why these militia volunteers were here.

All of them, I found, were youthful in their fighting spirit and determined to defend their young revolution.

Shouts of "Hurry up, let's go!" and "We will smash the Somocistas!" led the old man to stop speaking and break into a jog.

When the column stopped jogging, I came back to my conversation with him.

"My name is Juan Bautista. Before the revolution I rented land up north. I never got anything out of it. I was 20 when the National Guard killed Sandino. The peasants knew that Sandino came back to Nicaragua to liberate the country from the U.S. Marines. We never forgot the legacy of Sandino."

"Is your life better now than under Somoza?" I asked.

"Now I have something. I own land as a

farmer in a cooperative. The government gives us loans to buy seed, fertilizer, and equipment. My life is better. I have 12 sons. Each of them is a supporter of the revolution and is active in an organization that defends the revolution."

The militia column was still waiting to move on. I went up a few yards and started talking with another young *miliciano*.

"Are most of you workers in this militia?" I asked.

"Yes, we are all workers. Except some of us are peasants. And some of us are *cooperativistas* — working in agricultural cooperatives."

"How do you volunteer?"

"We are all volunteers. We volunteer through our CDSs — the neighborhood Sandinista Defense Committees."

The vast majority of the militia are from 18 to 25 years old. A high percentage are women.

The shouts began again. "Hurry up, let's go." The *milicianos* broke into a fast walk up the trail. The old man kept up the pace.

After 15 minutes the column slowed again, and I got another chance to ask some questions. This time I talked with a young worker. "Is your life better now?" I asked.

"There is no question for me. Under Somoza there were almost no schools and no hospitals. Now we have schools and hospitals."

He kept talking and expanding his answer. "Under Somoza it was a crime to be young. Somoza thought every young person was his enemy. His National Guard would invade the schools and arrest young people at random. Some of those were never seen again."

Another *miliciano* broke into the conversation. "This is an exercise. I don't mind doing an exercise, but I'd rather be up at the military front in the northern mountains where the fighting is taking place."

The column began to move out again. It started to rain. Only the old man brought a poncho. Everybody else was getting soaked. Nobody complained, and everybody kept order.

I asked fewer questions and thought more about finishing the three-mile hike.

At the end of the march, we came back through a working-class neighborhood along the industrial belt in the north of the city. It underscored why the *milicianos* were so committed.

The workers are quite poor by U.S. standards. Decades of U.S. imperialist domination under the Somoza family dictatorship have left their country underdeveloped. Their revolution is their opportunity to make some big gains.

The militia is key to the defense of the revolution. It is composed of volunteer soldiers who work in coordination with the regular army to defend the country against attacks by the U.S.-organized mercenaries. The militia is also prepared to help the regular army should Washington directly invade with its own troops.

Participating in the exercise were militia units of the First and Second Military Zones of Managua. Captain Antenor Ferry, chief of the First Defense Region of Managua, said the exercise was designed to strengthen the physical endurance and combative spirit of the militia and help coordinate the militia with the army for the defense of Managua.

Filipinos protest presence of U.S. bases

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breakdown in security as a reason for recently sending a personal envoy from President Reagan, Sen. Paul Laxalt, to talk with Marcos.

The real reason for Washington's concern, however, is the continuing mass opposition to the Marcos government and the rapid growth of the popular insurgency.

Washington wants Marcos to create a more democratic image in an effort to win some measure of popular support for his increasingly isolated government. But Marcos shows no intention of giving up any of his power, which he has used to increase his personal fortune by ten of millions of dollars.

Nicaraguan army hosts children's camp

BY BILL GRETTHER

OCOTAL, Nicaragua — "Oh, no. I don't see anything strange about this at all," 19-year-old José Castillo smiled. He and 40 other Sandinista soldiers in olive green uniforms were surrounded by 150 laughing children.

Two of the soldiers controlled the ropes from which a bright yellow papier-mâché rabbit swung from a tree. Blindfolded kids and soldiers took turns swinging at the rabbit with a stick, until the rope broke and the rabbit fell. The kids scrambled to tear the figure apart and get at the candy inside.

Meanwhile, soldiers wandered through the crowd, handing out goodies from their helmets to make sure everyone got some. To José Castillo it all seems perfectly natural.

"To us this is part of the army's responsibility," he said. "Of course, other governments are different. El Salvador, for instance. I couldn't see them doing this. But here we have a government that's for the people."

The week-long children's camp here, barely 10 miles from the Honduran border, was the first of several scheduled for the coming months. It was sponsored by the government's Institute of Social Security and Welfare, in conjunction with the Sandinista People's Army. The children attending range in age from 5 to 14. All have lost one or both parents in the war.

For the soldiers as well as the kids, the camp was an opportunity to relax. Several soldiers with guitars sang Nicaraguan folk songs. Even the littlest kids knew the words, and some of them sang along.

The soldiers were from an artillery unit. About half of them carried rifles. Some of the children were interested in the guns, and the soldiers demonstrated how they worked. But there was no indication that the soldiers were under orders to do anything special to entertain them. When some of the soldiers were playing volleyball, the kids could join in if they wanted to. If not, they could do something else.

All of the children crowded around to have their pictures taken. Although they wouldn't say so, the soldiers wanted theirs taken too. José posed with two of his friends. "Make sure the one on the left comes out in the photo," Vilma, a fifth grader from Estelí, whispered. "He's my favorite."

The kids were unanimous in their opinion: they liked the camp and they liked the *compas* from the army. Their enemy is la

guardia — the U.S.-financed terrorists led by the remnants of the hated National Guard of former dictator Anastasio Somoza.

"The camp's great," says Jesús, a fourth grader. He has lived for the past three years in a new settlement outside of Somoto, a nearby town. One hundred twenty families live there raising tobacco.

"Yes, we have school there," he said. "We don't have any desks yet, but we have classes anyway."

Sumo Indians fight isolation

BY BILL GRETTHER

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Taking advantage of the autonomy process now under way here, Sumo Indians are striving to overcome the "isolation and neglect; the complete lack of awareness of our existence," which they have suffered in the past.

Mercy Almendárez, the leader of the Sumo rights group SUKAWALA, described the Indians' situation in a press conference at the National Autonomy House here October 9.

The Sumo communities, he said, have become a particular target of the counter-revolutionary bands who want to "reimpose the colonial regime of the past."

Almendárez differentiated the situation of the Sumo communities from that of the Miskito zones. Some Miskito Indians have been in armed groups carrying out attacks on the revolutionary government, although a cease-fire with most of those Miskito groups is now in effect.

The terrorists attacking the Sumo communities, he said, are from the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), the main mercenary group supported by the U.S. government. The FDN commanders are former members of the National Guard of Anastasio Somoza, overthrown in 1979.

There are only 8,000 Nicaraguan Sumo Indians. The majority of them live in and around the gold mining towns of Siuna, Rosita, and Bonanza, in the central part of the Atlantic Coast's Northern Zelaya province.

To a large extent, the U.S.-backed counter-revolutionary forces have been driven out of Nicaragua's more populous Pacific region. But from their camps in Honduras they continue to enter the sparsely populated eastern and central part of the country. The result, in Almendárez' words, is "kidnapping, instability, and terror; the

Educational levels vary widely, depending on the availability of schools. Fourteen-year-old Ramón, who is only in the third grade, wants to be a teacher. He now lives with his mother in Quilalí, about 30 miles away. "My father was one of the *compas*," he said, referring to the soldiers. "He was killed on a mission."

"We want peace," Ramón said, explaining his view of the situation in the country. "We want the guard to get out. Then everything would be fine."

communities are displaced and the families are dispersed."

Under the domination of both British and U.S. corporations, the Atlantic Coast was kept isolated and neglected. The Blacks and Indians who lived there suffered specific forms of racial discrimination, and their languages and cultures were suppressed.

The Nicaraguan workers' and farmers' government has undertaken an ambitious program to establish government autonomy in these Atlantic Coast regions. This has in turn spurred greater involvement by Sumos and other Atlantic Coast residents in the revolutionary process, including raising specific demands on the government.

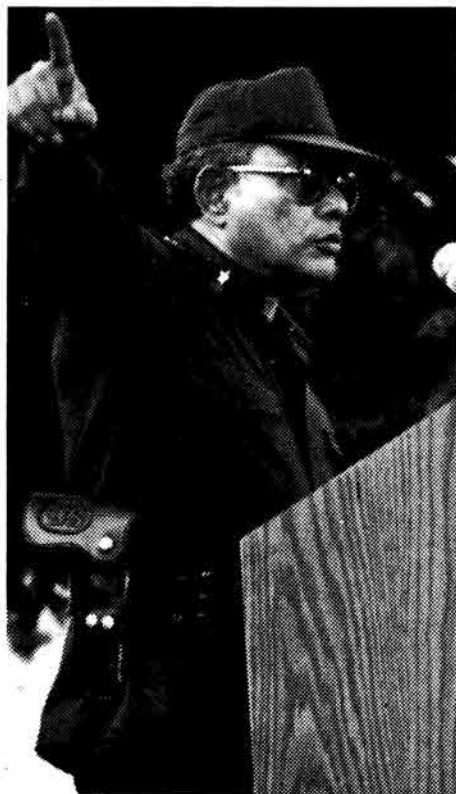
Sumo leaders reported widespread support for the autonomy plan. "After consulting individually and collectively with our people, with the elders and the ancestral leaders," he said, "we have come to the conclusion that autonomy is necessary."

But, they continued, "out of ignorance, the revolutionary government has responded to the so-called Indian problem in a stereotyped way." All of the attention, they said, "has focused on a particular sector, in this case the Miskito problem. The mining areas have been ignored."

Many Sumos work in the gold mines in Bonanza. Other live by hunting and fishing, or by subsistence agriculture along the banks of the Bambana river. The river is being polluted by the mine in Bonanza, and the Sumos feel their traditional way of life is threatened with extinction.

"The Sumos' natural way of life," Almendárez said, "has been destroyed by the pollution that began with the multinational companies before, and continues today from the Bonanza mine." The Indian leaders called upon the Nicaraguan government to immediately address the problem of cleaning up the river.

Nicaragua fights U.S.-organized terror



Militant/Fred Murphy

Tomás Borge

Continued from front page

the decree was suspension of the guaranteed right to habeas corpus, to form political associations, to demonstrate and have public meetings, and to organize strikes. It also included press censorship.

These restrictions were partially lifted in 1984 during the country's presidential election campaign. On October 15 Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega announced that the restrictions were being reimposed in response to provocative actions and terrorist plots by "agents of imperialism within the country," including "some political parties, media, and religious institutions."

The new measures come in the context of defeats handed Washington's armed mercenaries by the Nicaraguan army in recent months. There is also the expectation by Sandinista leaders that Washington will step up other forms of aggression to compensate for its losses on the battlefield.

The new state of emergency is designed to build on the momentum of the military victories. It will strengthen the hand of the workers and peasants in defending their government and revolution. It will further clarify the links of the capitalists and large landowners, and their spokesmen in the Catholic church hierarchy, to the war promoted by Washington.

"In the coming weeks," Borge said in his speech, "the counterrevolution and its mercenary army will begin a new offensive to stop, as far as possible, the process of the strategic military defeat, a process many specialists consider irreversible."

"They have to strike some blows to revive their sinking morale, looking for some victories to halt the syndrome of defeat and justify the aid the Yankees give them."

Some 2,500 mercenaries are now on the border of Honduras ready to try to cross over, he reported. In addition, Washington continues to try to provoke military confrontations between the Nicaraguan and Honduran armies, at the same time it works to prevent the Contadora treaty from being signed.

Bomb plot in Managua

The Sandinista leader announced that the MINT had just smashed another kind of aggression — the "scorpion plan." This was a plot by the mercenary group called the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) to plant bombs in major installations in Managua.

Enrique Bermúdez, FDN head, and Carlos Acevedo, an FDN terrorist and former member of the Nicaraguan Workers Federation (CTN), a right-wing union here, had organized Nicaraguans within the country to carry out the sabotage. The targets were bus stations, a large state-run supermarket where workers can buy products cheaply, a power plant in a working-class neighborhood, and the offices of the Soviet airline Aeroflot.

The bombings were to coincide with FDN military attacks in the north of the country. The terrorists and their explosives, however, were captured by the

MINT before they could carry out their orders.

Borge pointed out that, thus far, Washington has failed in its attempts to establish an "internal front" within the country to back up the mercenary forces based in Honduras and Costa Rica. "Since the triumph of the revolution, there has not been an important act of sabotage or terror carried out by an internally organized group," he said.

Acts such as the mining of Nicaragua's harbors and the bombing of the Managua airport "were all, without exception, organized by the CIA from abroad. To a large degree the state of emergency has contributed and will contribute in the future to neutralizing terror and death."

He warned, however, of the "unheard of boldness" of forces in COSEP, the Nicaraguan capitalists' association, and the Catholic church hierarchy, in their provocative illegal behavior and open identification with the goals of the mercenaries trying to overthrow the government.

'Shameless submission to CIA'

Earlier this fall, COSEP, which is headed by landlord Enrique Bolaños, attempted to hold a public meeting in honor of Jorge Salazar, a Nicaraguan coffee plantation owner. Salazar was killed in 1980 while carrying out terrorist actions against the revolution. The COSEP meeting was banned.

The factory owners and big landlords in COSEP also continue to sabotage production, promote shortages, and jack up prices, blaming the resulting decline in workers' standard of living on "Sandinista mismanagement."

Their principal mouthpiece in the Catholic church, Cardinal Miguel Obando y

Bravo, has been on a public speaking tour of the country, using his sermons to incite resistance to the military draft and calling for a dialogue with the ex-members of the National Guard of dictator Anastasio Somoza. It is these Guardsmen who today head the FDN. Obando calls them "brothers."

Borge told his audience that today the names of the traitors of the Nicaraguan nation are not only those counterrevolutionaries who have left the country to join the mercenary armies of the CIA but also "Balaños and others who travel throughout the country asking Abel to pardon Cain, praying to the heavens for forgiveness for Judas Iscariot, and insulting the whip that drove the moneychangers out of the temple."

"Through speeches, sermons, editorials, and their incredible support for intervention — these 30 pieces of silver again — they shamelessly submit to the CIA, which is in charge of the counterrevolutionary plan internally and abroad."

Part of this plan, he continued, is to establish in Nicaraguan cities, especially Managua, "an atmosphere of disorientation and discontent based on the economic limitations and on manipulation of religious sentiment."

He asked: "Should we permit the formation of a political and ideological internal front of terrorism? Should we invite the scorpion into our shirt to sting us?"

"We would be seriously irresponsible as revolutionary leaders if we did not take the necessary steps, one by one, to block the efforts of imperialism to undermine the economy, sabotage production, and cause hunger, fear, apathy, distress, insecurity, and confusion," he explained. "These attacks have as their only goal to create the

conditions for foreign intervention."

The purpose of the state of emergency measures is thus "to smash the ugly head of destabilization . . . to tie the hands of the enemies of the people."

"It's a state of emergency designed not to violate the law and the rights of the Nicaraguan people, but rather to protect the existence of those rights," Borge said.

"Our people can be assured that they can go on, as always, exercising their religious views. The activities of the National Assembly, the life of the political parties that have legal standing, the autonomy process for the Atlantic Coast, will in no way be restricted by the state of emergency. If anything, the decree will facilitate their development. All legal political activity is permitted, as well as any public activity with prior authorization from the appropriate authority."

'Anonymous soldiers of silence'

In concluding, the Sandinista leader paid tribute to the men and women of the MINT, singling out the ministry's undercover agents who have penetrated the ranks of the counterrevolution and broken up their terrorist plots. These members of the MINT "are the most heroic of all," he said, "the anonymous soldiers of silence, to whom in their perilous battlestations we send our recognition, our admiration, and our respect."

The entire Ministry of the Interior, he said in closing, "belongs to the people; it belongs to the workers — in other words, to the revolution. And it confronts those sectors who favor exploitation of man by man. Some of them are armed bandits, some are politicians of COSEP, some are preachers. All of them are on the side of a decaying class."

Nicaraguans break up CIA-inspired plots

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — In the days following the decree of additional state of emergency measures, Nicaragua's Ministry of the Interior released more detailed information on several CIA-inspired criminal activities broken up by MINT agents in recent months.

On October 18 in the northern city of Matagalpa, MINT officials presented to the media 129 Nicaraguans arrested for being part of a "support network" for the U.S.-organized mercenary group called the Nicaraguan Democratic Force. MINT spokespeople said the total number captured was considerably larger.

The majority were seized in combat situations in various parts of northern Nicaragua and were merchants, importers, or peasants with previous ties to the National Guard of Anastasio Somoza. The workers and peasants overthrew him in 1979.

The activities of the counterrevolutionary collaborators included acting as couriers for the mercenaries, passing on information about Sandinista leaders and troop movements, helping set up ambushes of Nicaraguan soldiers, supplying the mercenaries with food, smuggling draft-age youth out of the country and into the hands of the ex-National Guard, and circulating counterrevolutionary literature.

The MINT also seized large quantities of explosives destined for bombings in Matagalpa and photos of Cardinal Obando y Bravo.

In Managua, the MINT presented to reporters on October 18 three of the Nicaraguans who had been involved in the "scorpion plan" to bomb supermarkets, bus stations, and other sites here in the capital. (See story on speech by Tomás Borge on front page.)

The three conspirators were a factory owner, an auto-parts dealer turned disc jockey, and a construction foreman.

Explaining how he was recruited to the terrorist plot, the foreman, Alfonso Mejía, said the FDN had offered to get his draft-age son out of the country. He said he was convinced to oppose the draft by sermons in his Catholic parish and messages on Radio Católica by Bismarck Carballo, a priest who works for Obando y Bravo.

Earlier in the week, on October 15, the

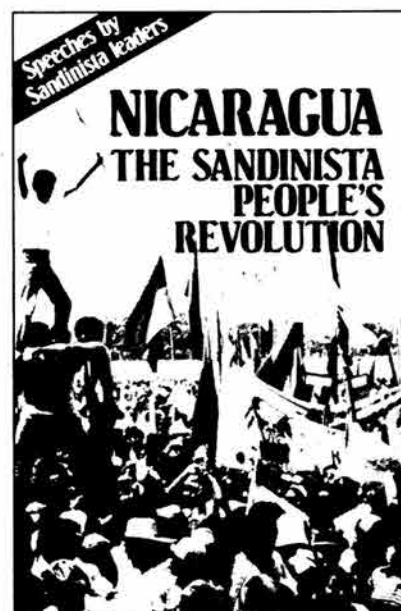
MINT had confiscated a new periodical that Carballo tried to put out without going through legal channels. The publication contained inflammatory statements opposing Nicaragua's right to defend itself militarily and denouncing the draft.

In a major editorial October 18 on the state of emergency, *Barricada*, the newspaper of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, led with the fact that Obando y Bravo and White House spokesman Larry Speakes had identical reactions to the declaration of new state of emergency measures. Both labeled the move "steps toward totalitarianism."

Barricada demanded to know why the Nicaraguan cardinal had failed to speak out against Washington's war or repudiate a stream of statements by the FDN praising his sermons and calling him "our cardinal."

This is "the internal outpost" of the real totalitarianism threatening Nicaragua, the editorial said. "The totalitarianism of the Somozaist Guard with its jails and torture chambers, the totalitarianism of the capitalist exploiters and the landlord who fleeces the peasant, the totalitarianism that Reagan, with his marines and mercenaries, wants to impose in Nicaragua as he did in Grenada." — C.J.

What they're saying about Nicaragua: The Sandinista People's Revolution Speeches by Sandinista leaders



My personal congratulations to Pathfinder Press and the people who have worked on collecting all these excellent speeches of the Nicaraguan leadership today on the reality of that country. The translators have not only done a wonderful, professional job in translating, but have put themselves into the heart of the speeches, and have expressed most vividly the feelings of not only the leadership, but the Nicaraguan people as a whole, and their hopes and dreams for the future.

I trust that the public who reads it will find inspiration, challenge, and hope in this document that is so significant today.

Norman Bent
Reverend of the Iglesia
Moravia
Managua, Nicaragua

This new collection contains more than 40 speeches by leaders of the Nicaraguan revolution. 400 pages, \$7.95 (include \$.75 for postage and handling). Available from Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014.

Nicaragua president addresses UN

Challenges Reagan to halt U.S. state terrorism

BY PAT GROGAN

NEW YORK — "On this 40th anniversary of the United Nations, Nicaragua is a living example of a small nation that decided to be free, and is consequently resisting the blows of an irrational policy that intends to snatch that right away from us," Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega told the General Assembly of the United Nations here October 21.

To loud applause, Ortega issued a "peace challenge" to U.S. President Ronald Reagan, who was scheduled to address the General Assembly a few days later. Ortega called on the U.S. government to end its "state terrorism" against the people of Nicaragua and declare peace.

"The president of the United States now has the floor," Ortega said. "Let him respond on October 24, when he addresses this Assembly, [and say that] he is willing to normalize relations with Nicaragua, in conformity with the principles of the United Nations Charter and of international law. This is Nicaragua's peace proposal. The peace of Central America depends on his answer."

Ortega's speech was part of a two-week commemoration of the UN's 40th anniversary, during which heads of state and governments are addressing the General Assembly.

Ortega reaffirmed Nicaragua's adhesion to the principles of self-determination and sovereignty for all nations, which were included in the United Nations Charter 40 years ago.

But Nicaragua is especially concerned that those principles "are now being systematically violated and disregarded by the present U.S. rulers in various regions of the earth," said Ortega.

The U.S. rulers, "disregarding the respect for the peoples' self-determination and sovereignty — as they did in Maurice Bishop's small island of Grenada — now threaten to destroy Nicaragua," Ortega said.

With the development of nuclear weapons, the threats to peace are even more serious today and could wipe out all of humanity, he said. Nicaragua adds its voice to the "universal outcry" against the nuclear threat and the development of space weapons.

Ortega condemns apartheid

Ortega began his speech by condemning the "inhuman decision of the apartheid regime to kill patriot Benjamin Moloise," the Black South African poet and member of the African National Congress who was recently executed by the apartheid regime.

"We are convinced that the example set by this brave fighter and new South African martyr, and the blood he has shed, will inspire his people and the international community to redouble efforts to end apartheid," Ortega said.

"There will never be peace on earth while people are oppressed by the criminal policy of apartheid in South Africa," Ortega told the assembly. "There will never be peace as long as colonialism, neo-colonialism, imperialism, racism, and any other forms of exploitation and domination exist on the earth."

U.S. crimes against Nicaragua

Ortega recalled some of the criminal acts against the people of Nicaragua carried out by the Reagan administration and the U.S. Congress over the last few years:

- In 1981, Washington allocated \$19 million to set up a mercenary force of counterrevolutionaries. The same year, it suspended food credits to Nicaragua.

- In 1982, Washington authorized covert operations against Nicaragua.

- In 1983, the CIA conducted an air raid on Managua's international airport and launched terrorist attacks against fuel deposits in Corinto, Nicaragua's main port. It also illegally ordered a reduction of Nicaragua's sugar quota.

- In 1984, the CIA mined sea access to all of Nicaragua's ports.

- The CIA published and distributed the "Psychological War Operations Manual" instructing mercenaries in terrorist activities and political murders.

- This year, Washington declared a trade embargo against Nicaragua, and Congress allocated \$27 million to the mercenaries. This brings to \$100 million the amount the U.S. government has put into financing terrorist activities against Nicaragua.

Human toll of U.S. terrorism

Ortega described the cost in human lives and suffering caused by the U.S. aggression.

Since 1980, 3,652 people have been murdered by the CIA-organized mercenaries; 4,039 have been wounded; and 5,232 have been kidnapped.

Nicaragua now has 7,582 war orphans.

More than 240,000 Nicaraguans have lost their homes and have been forced to flee.

The mercenaries have destroyed 321 schools and health care centers. They have leveled peasant cooperatives and even entire villages.

"Moreover," Ortega said, "thousands of peasants — kidnapped, confused, and deceived by the CIA — are also among the casualties": 7,599 dead and 1,326 wounded.

These figures, Ortega said, represent "an incalculable toll in a small country such as ours with a population of only 3.5 million."

To understand the scope of the U.S. assault against Nicaragua, Ortega asked the assembly to imagine that the U.S. were to suffer losses proportional to its population.

It would mean 723,000 dead — three

times the number of U.S. citizens killed in World War II, or the entire population of the city of Boston, Ortega explained.

It would mean 9,000 women and 15,000 children murdered. It would mean 373,000 wounded and more than 17 million people forced to relocate.

Int'l action urged to stop U.S. war

Ortega called for "forceful and determined action from the international community to help stop the genocide being practiced against my people by the present U.S. government."

Washington, he said, must "totally cease to attack the people of Nicaragua, directly or indirectly, in a covert manner or by any other means."

"We on our part will suspend the State of Emergency we have been forced to impose due to the aggressions, as of the very moment when the aggressions effectively cease," Ortega told the assembly.

Rome of the Caesars

Ortega spoke of the crushing and unpayable debt owed to the imperialist banks by Latin American and other underdeveloped countries.

"The problem of the debt," he said, "is shaking the economic foundations of an unjust economic order that resembles the Rome of the Caesars, where the oppressed peoples are forced to pay taxes," Ortega said.

Ortega said that Nicaragua, "with the blood and sweat" of the people, had paid \$621 million — the equivalent of two years of exports — in debt servicing over the past five years.

But Nicaragua now faces an extreme situation due to the continuing U.S. economic and military aggression. Nicaragua should be able to export \$1 billion annually, but will only be able to export \$300 million this year, he said.

Pressure and blackmail by the U.S. government on international lenders have led to the freezing of desperately needed loans worth \$423 million, Ortega said. The total loss caused by direct and indirect U.S. aggression is a devastating \$1.5 billion.

Nicaraguan textile workers support state of emergency

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "These measures are to protect us," said two women textile workers interviewed by the *Militant*. "The state of emergency doesn't change anything for the workers. We're still holding our union meetings, our women's meetings. Those who are affected are those who have something to hide."

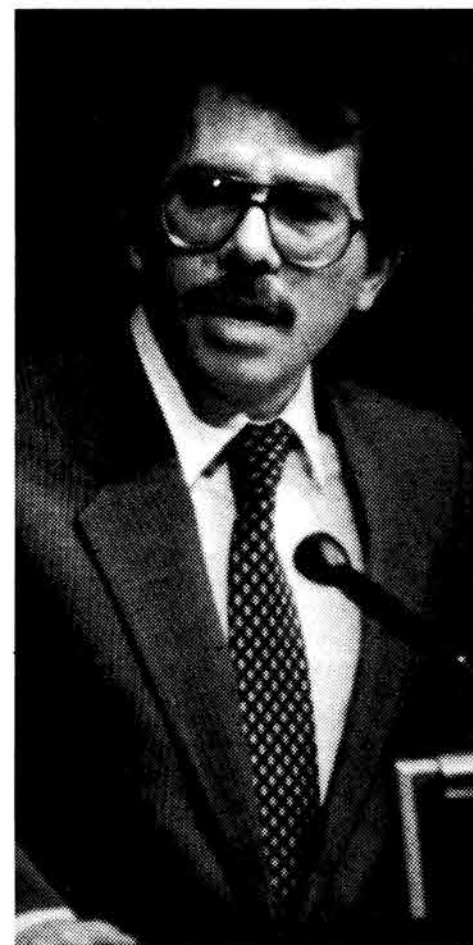
The two women work in the Texnica factory here in Managua. Since the beginning of the U.S.-organized mercenary war against Nicaragua, Texnica workers have volunteered in significant numbers — both women and men — to go to the front. Several sons of Texnica workers have fallen in combat against the *contras*, as the U.S.-backed mercenaries are called.

"The state of emergency is to help the workers, to let us continue our revolutionary process. And it's not just a decree from the government. It comes from the people," one of the textile workers said.

"We're sick of people spying on our meetings and then passing information on to the *contras* so they can kill our boys in the mountains," she said. "These measures will help us know who is who."

She assailed Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, whose preaching against the draft "stirs up people who still have the mentality of the past."

Asked about how she felt about suspension of the right to strike, the woman said she disagreed with groups that have attempted to organize work stoppages around demands for higher pay. "At Texnica our wages are very low. But the country doesn't have the money to pay us more," she explained. "Higher wages won't help. What we need is more production. If we produce more, we'll have more."



Daniel Ortega speaking to General Assembly. Referring to execution of Black South African patriot Benjamin Moloise, Ortega said, "The blood he has shed will inspire his people and international community to redouble efforts to end apartheid."

"This situation not only limits, but eliminates our possibility to pay" the debt, Ortega declared. He called for "urgent and concerted international solidarity and decisive support from those countries with which Nicaragua has financial relations."

Despite the difficulty of his country's struggle, Ortega expressed confidence that "The policy of state terrorism being practiced by the United States will never bring Nicaragua to its knees."

"We are defending the rights of the peoples and are waging this battle with the militant solidarity of the peoples of the world."

"Justice and peace are the future of humanity. Nicaragua will survive!"

There are petty-bourgeois sects in the labor movement that have counterposed winning higher wages to the tasks of defending the country from the war and increasing production in the factory. These groups include the Nicaraguan Socialist Party, the Movement of People's Action — Marxist-Leninist, and the Communist Party of Nicaragua. They play on the economic crisis and the backwardness of some workers to incite them against the government and the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN).

They raise charges against the FSLN similar to those raised by the capitalist parties and the unions they lead.

The FSLN newspaper, *Barricada*, in its major editorial on the state of emergency, denounced what it called "the demagogic campaign of the so-called left, which in collaboration with the forces of the right, tries to suck in the working people in order to generate instability in the economy."

At a news conference October 17 the FSLN-led Sandinista Workers Federation (CST) and unions affiliated to it released a statement in support of the emergency measures. "The Yankee imperialists and internal reaction have united to try to take away from us the biggest historical conquest of the working class: our having taken political power on July 19, 1979."

"The state of national emergency is in defense of that historic conquest achieved by the working people.... With it we guarantee and deepen the right to make our revolution."

CST leader Lucio Jiménez responded to a reporter's question about the right to strike: "We don't need a strike. We need work so we can survive in the middle of this war."

— C.J.



New Yorkers welcoming Ortega to United Nations on October 21. Signs read, "Welcome president" and "Peace in Central America — Long live free Nicaragua."

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Cancel Mexico's Foreign Debt! Protest meeting. Bilingual forum. Sat., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

Socialist Publication Fund Rally. Speaker: Mac Warren, Socialist Workers Party National Organization Secretary. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Nov. 9. Reception, 6 p.m.; rally, 7 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

San Francisco

Peace, Jobs & Justice Conference and Teach-in. Panel and workshop discussion. Sat., Nov. 2, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. San Francisco State University. Ausp: Mobilization for Peace, Jobs, and Justice. For more information call (415) 431-2572.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Adapt or Die. A film on role of South African Black trade unions in the struggle against apartheid. Sat., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Fight for Puerto Rican Rights. Speakers: representative of Colectivo Puertorriqueño of Boston. Sat., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th Floor. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

The Middle East — Who are the Real Terrorists? Speakers: George Najemy, New England American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee; Don Gurewitz, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th Floor. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

The Cambridge Anti-pornography Initia-

tive: A panel of different views. Speakers: representative of the Women's Alliance Against Pornography and representative, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th Floor. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

MICHIGAN

Dearborn

Free South Africa Rally. Speakers: Dumisani Kumalo, Union of Black Journalists of South Africa; Leo Robinson, International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union. Sat., Oct. 26, 4 p.m. United Auto Workers Local 600 Hall, 10550 Dix. For more information call (313) 842-5350.

Detroit

March and Rally for Peace, Jobs, and Justice. Speakers: Rev. Charles Adams, president of Detroit NAACP; Jeanette Mothobi, African National Congress. Sat., Oct. 26, 10:30 a.m. Clark Park (Clark St. and W Vernor). Ausp: Detroit Coalition for Peace, Jobs, and Justice. For more information call (313) 577-5053.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

The Issue is Women's Rights. Speakers: Jeri Rasmussen, board member Minnesota Abortion Rights Council, Minneapolis Task Force Against Clinic Violence; Ellie Garcia, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Oct. 27, 4 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Abortion is a Woman's Right. Panel discussion. Sat., Nov. 2, 7 p.m. 3109 S Grand, #22. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 772-4410.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Socialist Campaign Rally. Speakers: Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidate for

mayor of New York; Rashaad Ali, candidate for city council president; Pat Hayes, candidate for Brooklyn borough president. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Oct. 27. Reception 4 p.m., rally to follow. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$3. Ausp: New York Socialist Workers Campaign '85. For more information call (212) 925-1668.

OHIO

Cincinnati

How to Solve the Crisis in Cincinnati Public Education. Speakers: James Meredith, civil rights activist; Virginia Rhodes, member, Cincinnati Federation of Teachers; Mark Rahn, Young Socialist Alliance. Sun., Oct. 27, 7 p.m. 4945 Paddock Rd. Donation: \$2.50. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

Cleveland

Cancel the Latin American Debt! Speaker: Nick Finn, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. 15105 St. Clair. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (216) 451-6150.

Educational Conference on the Struggle for Freedom in Africa. Two classes Sun., Nov. 3. "South Africa," 11 a.m.; "Upheaval on the African Continent: Ethiopia, Mozambique, Angola, Burkina, Ghana," 2 p.m. Speaker: Ernest Harsch, managing editor of *Intercontinental Press*, has written on and traveled extensively in Africa. Donation: \$1 for each class. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (216) 451-6150.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

From South Africa to Central America, Fighting for Freedom — U.S. Youth Join the Battle. Panel, including Paco Sánchez, National Committee member of Young Socialist Alliance and staff writer for *Perspectiva Mundial*. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

TEXAS

Dallas

Fighting for Freedom from South Africa to Central America. Speakers: Rev. Prince Nuwan Ntintl of Soweto, South Africa; Héctor Marroquín, leader of Young Socialist Alliance; Rev. Clarence Glover, leader of anti-apartheid movement in Dallas. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. 132 N Beckley. Donation: \$2. Ausp: YSA and Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (214) 943-5195.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

What's Behind the AIDS Hysteria. Speakers: Patty Reagan, associate professor of health education, University of Utah; Richard Rodríguez, vice-president of Lesbian and Gay Student Union, University of Utah; Lori Gregory, health educator, Salt Lake AIDS Foundation; Susie Beck, health worker, representative, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m. 767 S State St., 3rd floor. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Grenada: Two Years After the U.S. Invasion. Speakers: Dr. Linus A. Hoskins, acting chairman of International Studies Program, Howard University, author of *U.S.-Caribbean-Grenada Relations: Before and After Bishop*; Reba Williams, member International Association of Machinists Local 1784 and Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Oct. 27, 7 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown

The Fight For Abortion Rights. Showing of *Silent Screams*, a videotape, and a response to *Silent Screams* followed by a panel discussion with representative from National Organization for Women and representative from Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m.; dinner, 6:30 p.m. 221 Pleasant St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

Book on Lenin and the Comintern is well-received

BY NORTON SANDLER

"The series of publications on the early history of the Communist International... promises to become an indispensable medium of research not only for the learned public in the United States, but in all other countries.... Volume one of the series... reproduces vividly by means of a well-selected collection of materials the hot debates among the socialists and the activities of Lenin and his comrades in the period preceding the genesis of the Communist International."

That's how Yoichi Murata, editor of the Japanese-language *Collection of the Comintern Documents*, reacted to publication of *Lenin's Struggle for a Revolutionary International, Documents: 1907-1916, The Preparatory Years*.

The book is the first volume in a series planned by Monad Press. When completed it will provide the first comprehensive documentary record in English of the early years of the Communist International, also called the Third International or the Comintern.

The series includes many previously unavailable documents from the communist movement between 1907 and 1923.

The first volume concentrates on debates

in the years preceding the 1917 Russian revolution.

Those debates were shaped by World War I. The materials provide workers and farmers today with the record of how V.I. Lenin and other leaders of the Russian Bolshevik Party came to the conclusion that the Second International was dead as an instrument for leading the working class to conquer political power.

Lenin and the team around him set out to build a new, communist international. They aimed to win revolutionaries in the Second International to that perspective after the leadership of most of its parties backed their own ruling classes in the war. These parties betrayed attempts by the international working class to chart a revolutionary course in the midst of the battle between rival capitalist powers.

Murata is one of several well-known writers on the Russian revolution who has commented recently on the book and the Monad series.

Robert V. Daniels, University of Vermont professor and editor of *A Documentary History of Communism*, said of the first volume, "... the work brings together an excellent choice of important and

revealing documents, hitherto difficult to come by, that illustrate step by step the split in the Second International and Lenin's effort to turn the antiwar movement into a base for the world revolution."

Herman Weber of West Germany, editor of *The Communist International, A Documentation*, wrote, "A lot of not widely known documents allow a remarkable insight into the Comintern's process of formation...."

Reviews have also been received from University of Michigan professor Ronald Suny; Alexander Rabinowitch, author of *The Bolsheviks Come to Power*; and others.

The editor of the Monad series, John Riddell, told the *Militant* that the second volume in the series, entitled *The Founding of the Communist International: Documents 1918-1919, The German Revolution and the First Comintern Congress*, is nearing completion.

"It was the conquest of power by the Russian workers and peasants in 1917 and the establishment of a revolutionary government that made the formation of the Third International possible," Riddell noted.

"Then, in November 1918, a revolution

broke out in Germany. The German Communist Party was soon formed, based on a break with the policies of the Second International," he added. "These events permitted the launching of the new International in March 1919. The documents in our forthcoming book will tell this story, from November through March."

Riddell said the new book will contain all the proceedings and resolutions of the founding congress as well as documents, leaflets, and speeches covering the debates among communists and socialists in the months before the congress.

The volume will contain the polemic between Lenin and Karl Kautsky on the meaning of Soviet power, and chapters on "The Russian Soviet Republic and the German Revolution of November 1918" and "The Peasantry in the German Revolution."

The book will be available in February 1986.

To obtain a copy of the first volume of *Lenin's Struggle for a Revolutionary International*, send \$10.95 plus 75 cents for postage and handling to: Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

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MISSOURI: Kansas City: SWP, YSA, 4715A Troost. Zip: 64110. Tel: (816) 753-0404. **St. Louis:** SWP, YSA, 3109 S. Grand, #22. Zip: 63118. Tel: (314) 772-4410.

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PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: SWP, YSA, 2744 Germantown Ave. Zip: 19133. Tel: (215) 225-0213. **Pittsburgh:** SWP, YSA, 402 N. Highland Ave. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

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Wars, racism, sexism, and now this — "Over the last 20 years the fundamentals of table manners ... seem to have been lost on many of America's young



Harry Ring

people. ... Historians, sociologists, teachers and etiquette experts say that dining standards have reached a new low for this century." — *The New York Times*.

By any means necessary? — "Empty beds and price pressures have introduced a new element for the health care system: competition. Instead of growing by acquiring hospitals, the for-profit chains must attract patients." — News item.

Altruist — Ellen Garwood, who contributed a tax-deductible \$65,000 to the World Anti-Communist League to buy the Nicaraguan *contras* a helicopter, is the daughter of Will Clayton, founder of Anderson Clayton — cotton, vegetable oils, etc. — which is a heavy south-of-the-border investor. Last year, company profits from Latin America totalled \$74 million as against \$43 million

from domestic operations.

Almost ruined our day — We were shook up to learn that an Italian drought has pushed the price of white truffles up to nearly \$400 a pound. But, happily, Bloomingdale's in New York has some truffle-flavored extra virgin olive oil in a 3-oz. spray bottle. \$125.

Socialized medicine, anyone? — Half the nation's M.D.s socked away more than \$100,000 last year. For neurosurgeons, the median income was a shade under \$180,000.

Better not toast it — Nine high-fiber breads on the market

advise in the fine print that the flavor is derived from alpha cellulose. Translated, that's wood pulp.

The march of civilization — A New Jersey firm offers an electronic bugging detector, "relied on by 37 national governments." \$21,000 each.

They'll probably paint too — We've been turned off by these offers of million-dollar kinky-dink condo apartments. But we do plan to check out a one-family house available on Manhattan's East Side. Five floors (stairs and elevator), with both a backyard and rooftop garden. Well built.

\$4,000,000.

They care — "Companies do try to enhance consumer awareness of health issues when it's in their interests. General Mills, for example, which owns 376 Red Lobster restaurants and Gorton's frozen fish products, recently sponsored a media event touting the newly discovered health benefits of fish oils." — News item.

And they understand too — "Consumers have a sense of entitlement, a sense that 'I've worked hard, I deserve a little treat.'" — James Moran of Campbell's, the soup folks who also market Pepperidge Farm cookies and Godiva chocolates.

St. Louis IAM members discuss takeover of TWA

BY KIM KLEINMAN

ST. LOUIS — The smoke is clearing in the corporate boardroom of Trans World Airlines, Inc. A bitter takeover battle for the giant airline has been waged between financier Carl Icahn and Texas Air, headed by Frank Lorenzo.

To read the big-business press, Icahn, by gaining control of over 50 percent of TWA's stock, is the winner. Lorenzo and Texas Air have acknowledged their defeat

AS I SEE IT

and withdrawn their bid although there are still unresolved legal questions.

The big-business media overlooks the real losers in this corporate battle: the employees of TWA.

Meanwhile, "loser" Frank Lorenzo stands to make \$45 million by bidding up the value of the stock he acquired.

Even before Icahn gained control of the airline the International Association of Machinists (IAM), which represents TWA ramp and maintenance personnel and is the largest union in the airline, approved a concession contract to prevent the bid by Texas Air and Lorenzo.

Lorenzo has a notorious reputation among airline industry workers for his butchering of their unions when Texas Air took over Continental Airlines. There Lorenzo declared Chapter 11 bankruptcy to rid the airline of its

unions and union contracts.

To prevent this the IAM took a 15 percent pay cut — approximately \$2 an hour for most workers — until Jan. 1, 1989.

In exchange they are promised 20 percent of common stock and profit-sharing for the three years of the contract.

Both Lorenzo and Icahn were attracted to TWA's size and had schemes to make profit by selling off its parts. As Icahn told *Business Week*, "Down the road TWA will consolidate. Looked at that way, it's a great property."

Icahn, under this agreement, promises not to sell off any assets and to put \$127 million a year of investment back into the airline.

The IAM views this as a victory. President William Winpisinger was quoted in the August 20 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* as saying, "It is pleasing to me that if Icahn emerges as the victor we have peace declared in advance."

Machinists in St. Louis, along with those in Louisville, Cincinnati, and Boston, voted against the concession agreement.

The *Militant* spoke with several St. Louis IAM members at TWA to get their reactions. All criticized entering negotiations with Icahn even before he owned the airline. They were bitter at giving up \$2 an hour right off the bat. Some felt deep dissatisfaction with their union. "It's a farce," one said.

There was some difference of opinion among these

workers as to the impact of a possible "no" vote.

One young worker suggested that Icahn would go ahead and make his bid even if they had rejected his concessions demand.

Another worker said, "The one thing both Icahn and Lorenzo didn't want was a strike. They wouldn't buy it if we struck."

The St. Louis workers felt size, breadth, and experience contributed to their local's rejection of the concession proposals.

St. Louis is TWA's domestic hub. The airline employs more than 4,000 people in St. Louis, including more than 1,000 IAM members. Many members have worked elsewhere and have been transferred in.

The workers I talked to felt other locals accepted the concessions because they were subjected to scare tactics and lacked the communication workers in a center like St. Louis could have.

One worker told me he favored the only other alternative presented, employee ownership proposed by the Air Line Pilots Association. "It's the only way," he said.

Airline labor has been dealt some devastating blows since the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization was crushed by Reagan in 1981, including Lorenzo's bankruptcy ploy at Continental.

In this context the IAM and other airline unions gave in to the employers' concession demands.

Interview with socialist on conditions in Japan

Continued from Page 8

in housing, education, and so on, and are victims of extreme prejudice.

Actually, freezing workers here will probably be interested to know that it is the Buraku who work in the meat works and related trades like the tanneries. This is because in feudal Japan slaughtering animals, tanning hides, and similar jobs were considered to be the most undesirable occupations. And this is a prejudice that the bosses continue to push today, that the people who work in these jobs are dirty.

With the onset of the capitalist economic crisis over the past decade, discrimination against the Buraku people has been stepped up as part of the divide-and-rule policy of the ruling class.

But the Buraku people haven't taken this oppression lying down. They have their own national organization, the Buraku Liberation League, and in the late 1970s they were able to mobilize broad support in the labor movement for the case of a Buraku youth who had been framed by the cops.

Korean immigrants

The other major oppressed people in Japan are the Korean immigrants. There are about 800,000 of them and, like the Buraku, they face discrimination in employment, housing, education, and the like.

Koreans were first brought to Japan as forced labor after Japan seized the Korean peninsula as a colony in 1910. During the Second World War in particular, Koreans and also Chinese were brought to work in the mines and military industries.

Since the war Koreans remaining in Japan have been denied citizenship rights and other civil rights like the right to vote. Even though many are now second-, third-, and even fourth-generation Koreans born in Japan, they have to live as "aliens" and be registered as such. This involves being fingerprinted by the authorities every time

you go to renew your registration, and you have to carry an identity card all the time.

An important struggle has just broken out in Japan around this, with scores of young Koreans refusing to be fingerprinted and organizing protests to demand full civil rights for Koreans and other immigrants. While I was in Japan I was able to take part in one of these protests.

Q. What did you learn about the situation of women in Japan?

A. The antiworker attacks of the employers and the government are hitting women hardest.

For example, the big cuts in social welfare spending I mentioned earlier are going to increase the burden on women in particular. Other policies of the government are aimed at driving women out of the work force or increasing the level of exploitation of women in industry.

Women make up about 35 percent of the work force in Japan. Like women here, they are concentrated in a narrow range of low-paid occupations. For example, most of the workers in the big electronics industries are young women. And the average wage of Japanese women is only half that of men.

I was struck by the amount of so-called "soft" pornography that seemed to be on TV, which no doubt is indicative of the status of women in Japan. Hangovers from Japan's feudal past help to reinforce backward attitudes toward women.

History of struggle

However, I was surprised to learn — and I think this is contrary to what many people have been led to believe — that Japanese women have a long and militant history of fighting for their rights, both as women and as workers.

For example, women played a vanguard role in many of the most outstanding labor

struggles of Japan's past. In fact, the first workers' struggles, during the 19th century, were led by women.

Prior to World War II a strong women's movement developed demanding the right to vote, although this was not achieved until after the war.

Today, feminists in Japan are organizing around many of the same questions that affect women here — defending access to abortion; for equal rights and opportunities in the work force; for access to child care; against rape and violence against women; and against pornography.

Many women are also involved in anti-nuclear and other antiwar campaigns.

Q. We hear a lot about the peace movement in Japan. What was your impression?

A. I was told that for many years there had been a strong antiwar sentiment in Japan. For example, in the 1960s and 1970s there was a large movement in support of the Vietnamese revolution, and before that in defense of the Chinese revolution.

Military build-up

What is happening right now is that a massive build-up of the Japanese military is under way. This is being carried out by the Nakasone government on the urging of the United States.

Hand in hand with this build-up has gone a wave of promilitary and chauvinist propaganda — even to the extent of rewriting the history books in schools to paint Japanese imperialism in a more favorable light.

This is one of the big challenges to the labor movement thrown down by the Japanese ruling class right now. But the response of the majority of labor leaders has been to capitulate and move to the right, and this has acted to undermine antiwar sentiment.

Of course, many of the people I met in Japan were activists in antiwar and anti-nuclear struggles.

Collaboration needed

One thing I learned was that representatives of New Zealand peace organizations who had toured Japan recently had been calling on their audiences to buy New Zealand exports in order to show support for the [Prime Minister David] Lange government's policies. To my mind, this sort of perspective is a thoroughly reactionary one. It might help New Zealand big business, but it doesn't help working people in either country and it certainly doesn't help to advance the fight for peace.

Both New Zealand and Japan are imperialist countries that together with their imperialist allies — the United States, France, Britain and Australia — dominate and exploit the peoples of the Pacific and South East Asia.

What I think is needed is mutual collaboration between antiwar fighters in both countries, in order to better build solidarity with the independence and anti-imperialist struggles throughout the region against our own ruling classes and governments.

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Forum panelists (left to right) Margarita Aguilar, president of AFT Local 3882; Noreen Connell, president, N.Y. State NOW; Pat Grogan, staff writer for *Militant*; Lisa Comen, representative, Federation of University Employees Local 34 at Yale University. Forum discussed significance of pay equity fight for women's equality, labor movement.

N.Y. Militant Forum hosts panel on pay-equity fight

NEW YORK — "We're just at the beginning of the fight," noted Lisa Comen, a representative of Local 34 of the Federation of University Employees at Yale University. She was speaking at a Militant Labor Forum here October 18.

The forum was a panel discussion on "The Fight for Pay Equity." Panelists discussed the fight by women workers against the low pay they get in predominantly female jobs.

The fight for pay equity also encompasses the demand for an end to low wages that result from race discrimination, speakers pointed out.

Comen described the inspiring 10-week strike by Yale clerical workers — 82 percent of whom are women — that won them a 35 percent wage increase and took steps to eliminate discrimination against women and Black workers.

In addition to Comen, panelists included Margarita Aguilar, president of Local 3882 of the American Federation of Teachers; Noreen Connell, president of the New York State National Organization for Women (NOW); and Pat Grogan, a staff writer for the *Militant* newspaper.

The forum took place as a militant strike by Columbia University clerical workers was going on, with pay equity as a central issue.

Margarita Aguilar said that at New York University, the largest private university in the country, her union's membership is pressing for pay equity in the upcoming contract talks.

NOW President Connell said, "America has a sex-segregated work force," one in which women in predominantly female jobs are systematically underpaid because of sex discrimination.

While the ultimate goal had to be to break down sex segregation in the work force, said Connell, the fight for higher wages in traditionally women's jobs was also essential for women's equality.

Militant staff writer Pat Grogan described the Yale strike as an inspiration for the entire labor movement. The fight for pay equity, she said, was aimed at breaking down divisions among workers at a time when the employers were pushing hard to deepen them through lower wages for new hires and other measures.

Socialist candidate hails Columbia U. union struggle

Continued from front page

"It is no surprise that Columbia would force its workers out on strike to defend a discriminatory wage system," González said. "For years, Columbia has reaped profits from its investments in apartheid in South Africa. It was only the determined fight by the students — supported by the unions — that finally forced Columbia to divest."

González also joined the Center for Immigrant Rights, the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights, and the Asian American Legal Defense Fund in calling on the city government to publicly oppose the anti-immigrant Simpson and Rodino legislation.

González attended a public hearing here on the rights of immigrant workers. The October 17 hearing was organized as part of the National Day of Justice for Immigrants and Refugees.

In a statement distributed to the hearings, González urged opposition to the anti-immigrant Simpson and Rodino legislation currently before Congress. She charged it would promote more racism against foreign-born workers.

"Koch's recent decision barring city agencies from reporting undocumented workers to the Immigration and Naturalization Service — la migra — is a step forward," González said. "The mayor should now join defenders of immigrant rights in opposing the racist Simpson and Rodino legislation. He should also declare the city a sanctuary for refugees from Central America," she continued.

González also joined some 100 supporters of political rights who packed a federal courtroom here in a show of solidarity with the Black rights activists known as the New York 8+ during their sentencing on weapons and false identification charges October 17. (See story on page 12.)

González also participated in a panel discussion on the international women's conference held in Nairobi, Kenya, this July. The panel was part of the October program of the New York chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW).

In her remarks, González stressed that the international character of the women's liberation movement was demonstrated at the Kenya conference.



As part of full schedule of campaign activities, Andrea González welcomes Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega to New York.

She told the NOW gathering that "our future here is tied to the future of our sisters around the world. When our Nicaraguan sisters win equal rights, our struggle for equality takes a step forward."

González received warm applause when she appealed to NOW members for solidarity with women in South Africa and Central America in their struggles against apartheid and U.S. intervention.

The socialist campaign is also winning support among working people for the Nuclear Free Harbor Referendum. The referendum, which will be on the ballot in November's election, would prohibit the city from assisting in any way in the establishment of military installations designed to carry nuclear weapons within city limits. The referendum is aimed at opposing the U.S. Navy's plans to homeport the *USS Iowa* and six sister ships at Stapleton, Staten Island.

Supporters of the socialist campaign went to the communities around the Stapleton site to campaign for a "yes" vote on the referendum. Supporters distributed hundreds of copies of the campaign statements against the referendum. They also sold the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* to Staten Island residents.

Do you know someone who reads Spanish? 'PM' on anticoncessions fight

During the past decade unionists in this country have faced one wave of concession contracts after another. Profit-hungry bosses have slashed wages and benefits, often with the connivance of U.S. government agencies like the National Labor Relations Board.

But today a response is stirring in the ranks of labor. This is reflected in a number of important defensive labor battles: the Wheeling-Pittsburgh strike by 8,200 steelworkers, the year-long strike by 2,000 coal miners against A.T. Massey, the General Dynamics strike by 4,600 United Auto Workers members, the recent strike at Bath Iron Works by 4,500 unionized shipyard workers, and the Hormel strike by 1,500 meatpackers.

The new issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* takes a look at some of the features of these militant labor battles and their significance. In addition, an on-the-spot report from Watsonville, California, covers another important working-class struggle: the strike by 2,000 workers — predominantly Chicanas and *mexicanas* — against union-busting demands by two of the largest frozen vegetable packing companies in the country.

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K.C. actions defend abortion rights

BY MICHELLE FIELDS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Women's rights organizations that support legal abortion held press conferences, picket lines, and rallies all over the country on October 7, the date of the reconvening of the Supreme Court.

A weekend of activities culminating in a press conference here was sponsored by the Kansas City Committee for Choice.

The speakers at the press conference included representatives from the National Organization for Women (NOW), the Kansas City chapter of the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP), National Abortion Rights Action League, Committee for Choice, and Greater Kansas City Women's Political Caucus. The Coalition of Labor Union Women sent a statement for the press.

The speakers discussed different aspects of the abortion rights struggle.

Deborah Turner-Bey from NBIPP explained how the decision to legalize abortion was an advance for Black women since they were the worst victims of illegal abortions.

Barbara Crist from NOW linked the attacks on abortion rights to the fight to defend all women's rights, such as pay equity. She pointed to the spring national abortion rights march in Washington, D.C., called by NOW, as a way for women to fight back.

Candace Stewart from the Committee for Choice blamed the U.S. government and prominent right-wing religious figures for the attacks on abortion rights. She

urged women and working people to participate in demonstrations to defend our right to abortion and other democratic rights.

In addition to the press conference, the Committee for Choice organized a large counterdemonstration at the monthly anti-abortion march at Planned Parenthood. More than 100 carried signs defending women's right to abortion. This was the largest action by abortion rights forces in many months.

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U.S. gov't cannot destroy message of Grenada revolution

On October 25, 1983, thousands of U.S. Marines and Army Rangers landed on the Caribbean island of Grenada. Their job was to establish a military occupation of the island and brutally reverse the far-reaching popular advances gained as a result of the March 13, 1979, revolution. This revolution had been led by Maurice Bishop and the team of revolutionaries around him in the New Jewel Movement.

The invasion came one week after Prime Minister Bishop and five other central leaders were murdered in cold blood at the orders of a clique of army, government, and party officials organized by Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard.

To mark the second anniversary of these events, we are reprinting excerpts from an article by Don Rojas. Rojas was Bishop's press secretary. He now works as a secretary in the International Organization of Journalists in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

Rocketed into the center of world attention by the notorious events of October 1983, tiny Grenada (133 square miles; 100,000 people), a once-free and sovereign country which stood tall and proud within the family of nations, has today faded from the general public's view.

Relegated to oblivion by the bourgeois mass media as just another half-forgotten colonial outpost of Washington's Latin American and Caribbean empire, this gem of an island no longer dominates the headlines. More significantly, it no longer captures the imagination of people everywhere who yearn for social justice and national independence.

But for those of us who lived and worked in Grenada during the dynamic years of hope (1979-1983), and for the many thousands who came to witness Grenadians' self-determined efforts to fashion a new society in their own image and likeness, the memories of those times, mixing joy and pain, today remain vividly alive on the surface of our collective consciousness.

On this occasion, we recall with deep sadness how this brilliant flame of freedom we called the Grenada Revolution was snuffed out two years ago when a faction of Pol Potist dogmatists and sectarian opportunists within the ruling political party (the New Jewel Movement) committed a series of CIA-type counterrevolutionary crimes, including the brutal assassination of the country's popular leader, Maurice Bishop, and other outstanding revolutionaries. These crimes served up on a platter to Ronald Reagan and his Pentagon terrorists the long-awaited opportunity to invade this independent Black country and recapture it from its own people who had liberated it in 1979.

We remember as if it happened yesterday the U.S. Navy jet fighters screaming low over coconut trees, spitting bombs of death and destruction on this beautiful land. We can still see the waves of helicopter gunships arrayed like convoys of flying killer bees relentlessly attacking the capital city, St. George's; and we can still hear the rumbling of tanks, the thud of heavy artillery, the rattling of rapid-fire machine guns, as the most powerful nation on earth unleashed its mighty military machine on one of the world's smallest countries.

The heart-wrenching screams of Grenadian mothers for their young dead and wounded still haunts us as does the image of frightened faces on young Blacks and Latinos in marine uniforms confused about why they were ordered to kill, maim, and capture Grenadians and Cubans, black and brown like themselves, with whom they had no quarrel.

And we will never forget the racist lies, the pretexts, falsifications, and devious tricks concocted by Reagan and the capitalist ruling class he represents, to justify the criminal invasion and to manipulate public opinion into supporting what the United Nations, the OAS [Organization of American States], the Non-Aligned Movement, and all progressive humanity rightly condemned as an aggressive act of banditry and lawlessness.

But October 1985 is also an occasion to evoke pleasant memories, to recall positive experiences, and to reflect soberly on the historical lessons the Revolution's demise presents to us.

For here was a country that had made a national democratic revolution on its own. It had inherited a debilitating legacy of backwardness and underdevelopment and had embarked courageously upon a difficult course of self-reliant social and economic development. Its progress towards this goal was indeed impressive.

Here was a people who had suffered centuries of colonial oppression and exploitation, who had fought tirelessly for their dignity and self-respect, finally triumphing on March 13, 1979, when they overthrew the corrupt, pro-imperialist dictatorship of Eric Gairy; a people whose determination, confidence, and optimism were sources of moral encouragement to other peoples still struggling for their freedom in the Caribbean, Latin America, Africa, and even North America.

Here was a rare opportunity for the descendants of slaves to become free masters of their destiny, actors as well as audiences in their own historical drama, no longer merely objects but as well active, conscious subjects in an evolving social process.

Here was a political leadership, young, patriotic, committed, dynamic, and incorruptible, possessing an historical perspec-



Militant/Flax Hermes

Militant

Don Rojas (left) worked closely with Prime Minister Maurice Bishop until revolutionary government was overturned; at right, Grenadians celebrate first anniversary of their revolution on March 13, 1980.

tive and an international outlook, who gave their all to Grenada, who had the guts to look big, bad "Uncle Sam" square in the eye and say: "We take orders from no one except our own people; we will chart our own course, choose our own friends; we are in nobody's backyard and, sorry, we are certainly not for sale."

Here was a Revolution that in spite of vulgar, unremitting attempts by U.S. imperialism to undermine its popularity, destabilize its institutions, and isolate it economically and diplomatically, was able, nonetheless, to reduce unemployment, achieve economic growth, fight illiteracy, make education and health care free for the poor and dispossessed, and on international platforms raise its voice on behalf of the Third World's suffering millions.

In early 1983 many of the leading Black Americans who had visited Grenada decided it was high time for Maurice Bishop, central leader of the Grenada Revolution, to come to America, to interface with the American working people and tell them the truths about the Revolution. To say to them that contrary to Ronald Reagan's slander, Grenada did not and could never pose a threat to the national security interests of the United States.

So he went in May 1983 to Washington, Detroit, and New York at the invitation of the Congressional Black Caucus and TransAfrica. Reagan refused to meet him, but everywhere he went in the U.S.A. the multinational and multiracial working class warmly welcomed him and listened attentively to his words.

To cheering thousands at a Hunter College rally in New York, Bishop spoke about the social and economic achievements of the Revolution in the midst of the world capitalist crisis, and of the active involvement in the reconstruction and transformation of the nation by workers, women, and youth. He spoke also about the fundamentally new popular democracy which was being institutionalized and about the fraternal assistance rendered to Grenada by Cuba, the socialist states, and other progressive countries.

He effectively refuted all Reagan's groundless charges that the Point Salines airport was a military base, explaining instead that its sole purpose was economic. He warned that the Pentagon had already drawn up and rehearsed plans from August 1981 to invade Grenada at a convenient moment.

Bishop spoke also of his country's non-aligned foreign policy, of its firm solidarity with the national liberation struggles of the peoples of southern Africa, Central America, and the Middle East and of its unbreakable support for the Sandinista Revolution in Nicaragua and its principled friendship with the Cuban Revolution.

But the point which sparked the most enthusiastic response was his reference to a hitherto secret State Department document which stated that Grenada was threatening to the American government because it was a Black, English-speaking country which was building a successful, socialist-

oriented Revolution and which had the ability to communicate directly with the 30 million Black people in the United States. In this reality lay the potential of a "dangerous appeal," as the warlords in the State Department saw it.

For two years now Bishop's eloquent voice has been silent and today his memory is being officially erased by the puppet regime imposed by Washington on the Grenadian people.

Two years after "democracy was restored" at the point of a gun barrel, Grenada remains illegally occupied by U.S. and Caribbean military personnel. Human rights are systematically abused. Government corruption, incompetence, and lack of cohesion is rampant. Unemployment stands at 45 percent; crime has skyrocketed; prostitution is widespread; cocaine is the "new high"; and the CIA rules the roost.

In St. George's we now have a regime which, along with other neo-colonial states, participates obediently in the sinister militarization of the Caribbean by the United States and Britain and in the heightening of regional tensions. It is a regime which condones the U.S.A.'s aggressive policies in Central America; mildly opposes Reagan's constructive engagement with racist South Africa; and supports Reagan's "Star Wars" plans — positions which are all unrepresentative of the collective will and interests of the Grenadian people.

Bishop is dead but his revolutionary spirit lives on among freedom-loving peoples of the Caribbean, Africa, and Latin America.

His banners of dignity and self-determination have been picked up by the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM), the only genuinely progressive, anti-imperialist force in today's neo-colonial Grenada and fitting inheritors of his legacy.

Under the most adverse conditions and faced with unceasing pressure and harassment from the Yankee stool pigeons led by the moribund [Prime Minister] Herbert Blaize, the MBPM continues to struggle on courageously for a Grenada free of foreign troops and for the restoration of working people's democracy.

On this the second anniversary of the criminal Yankee invasion, the MBPM and all Grenadian patriots call on progressive and democratic humanity for its solidarity and support and pledge to continue moving ever forward on their feet, not on their knees, towards that day when the hour of liberation will strike again.

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Maurice Bishop Speaks

A collection of more than 20 major interviews with and speeches by the slain leader of the Grenada revolution and New Jewel Movement, including his June 1983 speech in New York City.

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400 pp., \$6.95, published by Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include 75 cents for shipping.

GD strikers hit with court injunctions

BY JOANNE MURPHY

DETROIT — Going into the second month of their strike against General Dynamics, three of the four United Auto Workers (UAW) locals affected have been hit with court restrictions limiting picketing.

Local 2075 in Lima, Ohio, and Local 1248 in Sterling Heights, Michigan, already had injunctions when Local 1200 in Warren, near Detroit, was served a temporary restraining order October 19.

The fourth local involved in this contract fight is Local 1193 in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Besides calling on its friendly judges to hamper picketing, GD has also stepped up its propaganda war. Members of all four locals opened their mailboxes October 19 to find a pamphlet from GD Land Systems Division purporting to "answer your questions and help stop rumors."

The 5,000 striking UAW members produce tanks at the four facilities, and GD Land Systems is the Army's sole source for M1 and M1A1 tanks.

The company pamphlet claims that "all September tank deliveries were met. For October it is anticipated that 33 tanks will be delivered." They may show up as delivered on paper, through the buddy-buddy relations GD has with the government, but 24-hour pickets at the production plants in Lima and Warren can testify that no tanks are being delivered.

"As soon as the production lines are drained, the majority of tank production will be shifted to a single plant," the company propaganda sheet continues.

Strikers anticipate this will be the Lima plant, the only one where the tanks can be assembled from scratch. And since they can't really produce tanks with only managers on the assembly line, GD may calculate it would be easier to run scabs into the Lima plant, which is located out in the middle of fields and woods.

The Michigan locals have already organized two trips to Lima. On the second, Local 1200 President Jim Coakley addressed more than 600 Local 2075 members at their October 16 membership meeting.

The Lima local will help sell the button Local 1200 artists designed and printed. It shows a worker bent under the weight of a coffin labeled "concessions," and says "Bury concessions before they bury us — UAW solidarity."

Plans were also made for more trips between the locals, including Saturday night socials and joint committee work.

The GD workers were forced out on strike October 18 when the company,

which pays no taxes and makes huge profits off military contracts, demanded new concessions.

The UAW members went into negotiations this spring determined to make up for concessions given Chrysler in 1979 and GD in 1982 when it bought the operation. They sought to get rid of the wage system where new workers come in at 60 percent of the base rate. They want wage parity with Chrysler workers. And they felt they needed to get back the right to strike on health and safety issues, after losing two union brothers in 1983 to GD's greed and unsafe practices.

In addition, they refused to have holidays taken away and demanded the addition of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, which becomes a national holiday next January in commemoration of the gains of the civil rights movement.

In taking this stand against concessions, the GD workers have won the admiration of many. Local 1200 set up a table at the Michigan AFL-CIO convention October 17 and 18. Strikers sold buttons and T-shirts, and signed up people who wanted to invite speakers to their locals.

Local 1200 members have already spoken before about a dozen union locals in the Detroit area.

After Coakley addressed Local 594 at the GM Truck and Bus plant in Pontiac, President Donny Douglas sent a thank-you letter saying, "At a time when greedy corporations such as General Dynamics are

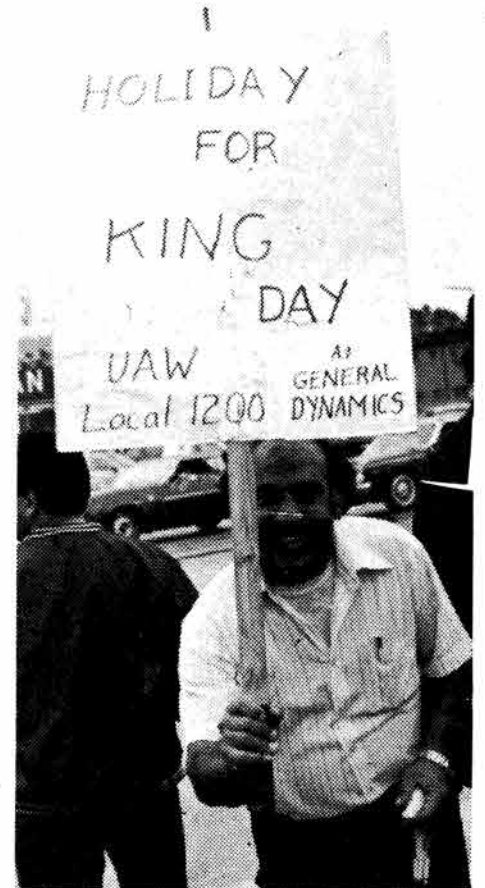
trying to keep the concession ball rolling and further erode the benefits and safety of our members, it is truly inspiring to witness the fight you and your leadership are taking on. It does not take a very intelligent person to see what has happened since the Chrysler Corporation made the word 'concession' a household name.

"If we are to ever get back to our objective of 'improving working conditions, creating a uniform system of shorter hours and higher wages,' we must all stand behind locals such as 1200," he wrote.

Local 1200 was also planning to send a contingent to the Michigan Labor Free South Africa Rally October 26. The rally is sponsored by top AFL-CIO and UAW officials and will be held at UAW Local 600.

In a letter to the rally committee adding his name to the list of sponsors, Coakley says, "Unions and their memberships the world over need to object most vigorously to the inhumane treatment of our brothers and sisters of South Africa."

"At Local 1200 we are currently on strike against General Dynamics. We are in for a hard fight against this antiunion company. However, we fully realize that an injury to one is an injury to all. The deplorable treatment of South African Blacks will have its impact the world over, just as victory against apartheid will have its impact the world over. Local 1200 stands ready to be counted on in any manner available to support the fight against the racist system of apartheid."



Militant
General Dynamics strikers are demanding that Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday be a paid holiday.

Ecuador breaks ties with Nicaragua

BY BILL GRETTNER

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — On October 11 the government of Ecuador announced its decision to break all diplomatic relations with Nicaragua. The move was part of a series of U.S.-organized schemes aimed at trying to isolate Nicaragua from other Latin American nations and blow up negotiations among Latin American governments over the armed conflicts in Central America.

Barricada, the newspaper of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), characterized the announcement as a "new diplomatic assault" by the United States. Ecuadorian President León Febres Cordero "has been assigned to play the leading role in this new maneuver," *Barricada* said.

Sandinista leaders pointed out that the breaking of diplomatic relations does not reflect the will of the people of Ecuador, and will not benefit them, but rather helps Washington's war moves.

The incident began with a provocative

statement by the Ecuadorian president. Under cover of an alleged desire to further peace negotiations, Febres Cordero recycled an old slander against Nicaragua. The conflict in Central America, he said, will continue "as long as there are not legitimate elections, where all the Nicaraguan people have the right to choose their own destiny, without sticks, without clubs, and without violence."

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega responded sharply to this gratuitous attack. He suggested that Febres Cordero "should first put his own house in order, before meddling as he is in Nicaraguan affairs, where we have had truly democratic elections." Ortega pointed out that scheduled elections in Ecuador have been suspended.

Ortega put the attack by Febres Cordero in the context of the U.S. government's determination to continue sponsoring a war to overthrow the Nicaraguan government. "The U.S. plan," he said, "is to use people like Mr. Febres Cordero to sow discord within the Contadora group."

The Contadora group — made up of the governments of Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela — has a stated goal of negotiating a political settlement to the military conflict in Central America. At the time Febres Cordero made his remarks, Contadora was sponsoring a meeting of foreign ministers from the region on the island of Contadora, Panama, from which the group takes its name. The group is developing a draft of a treaty for Central America.

The original version of the Contadora treaty was presented last year. The Nicaraguan government was the only one that signed it and began to unilaterally implement some of its provisions. Other Central American governments bowed to pressure from Washington and insisted that the document be changed.

A new version of the treaty is now under discussion. In some respects it is far weaker than the original in calling for an end to the kind of aggressive actions that the U.S. rulers are carrying out in the region.

For example, the original included a ban on joint military maneuvers with "foreign powers." The governments of Honduras and El Salvador have been carrying out precisely such joint maneuvers with tens of thousands of U.S. troops in the last four years.

The new version of the treaty calls only for "regulation" of such maneuvers, "with a view toward prohibiting" them. The Honduran and Salvadoran rulers are openly opposed to even this point. Nicaragua, on the other hand, has accepted these provisions, while pointing out that a ban on placement

and transit of foreign troops in the region would be much better.

Four South American governments — those of Argentina, Brazil, Peru, and Uruguay — have formed a Support Group to give added prestige to the Contadora initiative.

In secret documents published in the *Washington Post*, the U.S. State Department revealed its fear that this might lead to the success of the Contadora Plan. The document expressed concern that the Support Group would "try to pressure the United States and our friends to accept a treaty" that is not to Washington's liking.

We should undertake active diplomacy," the report continued, "to hold back Latin solidarity efforts directed against the United States and our allies, whether they are led by the Support Group, the Cubans, or the Nicaraguans."

As part of its "active diplomacy" against Contadora, the U.S. State Department sponsored a meeting October 1 of its allies in Central America. The meeting took place in Washington, D.C., which State Department sources described as "the logical place" for the discussion.

After the meeting, the foreign ministers of El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica expressed their opinions on the Contadora negotiations. All place obstacles in the way of the treaty's final approval.

Some called on Nicaragua to enter into discussions with the U.S.-backed mercenaries attacking that country. The vice-president of El Salvador repeated this U.S.-inspired demand, making no mention of the suspended dialogue between his government and the Salvadoran liberation fighters.

The Ecuadorian president subsequently asked to join the Contadora Support Group, using the request as an opportunity to attack Nicaragua's electoral process. The Nicaraguan answer was then taken as a pretext to break relations.

The move is the latest in a series of increasingly servile actions by Ecuadorian officials in support of U.S. imperialist diplomacy in the region. In March of this year, the Ecuadorian government abruptly cancelled an agreement to sell oil to Nicaragua.

In April, Febres Cordero visited New York, where he expressed his support for the Reagan administration's policies against Nicaragua. Washington then granted Ecuador a \$200 million loan.

UFCW: 'We've just had enough'

BY CHARLIE ROSENBERG

BALTIMORE — Workers at the Esskay packing plant voted a resounding 267 to 0 to reject a package of wage and benefits concessions demanded by Smithfield, a Virginia-based meat-packing company. Smithfield recently announced plans to buy Esskay for \$1.9 million.

The workers are organized by the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 27. They rejected the contract at their October 5 union meeting.

In August 1981, Esskay workers accepted a \$1.99 per hour pay cut. In October 1984 they agreed to further concessions after rejecting a more damaging pact.

The anticoncessions mood of Esskay workers as they entered the plant three days after the union meeting seemed as unanimous as at the time of the vote. Everyone who spoke to the *Militant* at the plant gate felt good about it. "We've just had enough," many said.

UFCW members took less than an hour to reject Smithfield's proposal. They voted it down despite the layoff of 35 workers at the plant before the vote and the threats by company officials to close the plant if the contract wasn't ratified. An additional 51 workers lost their jobs a week after the vote.

Several workers explained that the company's proposal would result in the surrender of more than \$1.7 million in wages and benefits by UFCW members. That demand amounted to making Esskay workers foot the bill for Smithfield's \$1.9 million ac-

quisition of Esskay.

Local 27 President Thomas Russow explained that the company's proposal would have resulted in a base labor rate of \$7.36 per hour, compared to \$7.85 per hour under the 1979-82 contract.

Workers would also have been required to provide their own work clothes. Vacation time would have been cut. And the company's contribution to health care coverage would have been frozen at \$235 a month.

The majority of Esskay workers cited the cuts in overtime and work hours as the most serious concessions demanded by the new management. Smithfield wanted to cut the hours guaranteed to workers from 36 to 32 a week. Since many workers average 45 hours a week or more, this amounts to a big cut in pay. In addition, overtime pay for Saturday would have been eliminated.

Under the existing agreement, the current contract will run until 1989 if ground is broken on a new modern plant. Smithfield has said it has no plans to build such a facility. In that case, the contract will expire in 1986.

It seems certain that the coming year will bring a confrontation between union members and management. Equally certain is the union membership's determination to resist further attacks.

As one worker explained, "Let them move out of town, lock the gates up. They've got to get the point — we mean business."

'Model plant' workers say, 'We want ours'

BY BOBBI SPIEGLER

DETROIT — The Sterling Heights Assembly plant — called "SHAP" — near Detroit, is different from most Chrysler plants. This is Chrysler's model plant. Like General Motors' planned Saturn plant and GM-Toyota's NUMMI, Chrysler's SHAP is based on the idea that production is organized by worker-management teams.

Many concessions that Chrysler is driving for in the current contract negotiations are already in effect here.

Chrysler has poured millions of dollars into this plant. It has a new, state-of-the-art paint department, scores of robots, and other advanced technology. The company says its aim is to "stop the invasion of Japanese and European carmakers from our soil."

Huge wall signs in the plant read, "The winning way is the only way" and "Working to be the best."

A mural depicts Chrysler Chairman Lee Iacocca and the SHAP plant manager with an American flag literally marching over a Japanese auto worker.

The work force at SHAP is mainly recalled Chrysler employees who were out of work for years because Chrysler's 1979 near-bankruptcy resulted in plant closings and massive layoffs.

Some workers initially felt Lee Iacocca had "put them back to work" and that he was building a new image for the corporation. Many bought army green T-shirts that said, "Iacocca's army working to be the best." Many other workers had a wait-and-see attitude.

The new plant opened a year ago with a first shift of 2,200. After workers were forced to work without a contract for five months, a very weak local agreement was signed. The new contract passed by only 55 votes. Another 2,000 workers on second shift never had a chance to vote on it.

The agreement reduced job classifications from an average of several hundred in other plants to nine. Jobs are continually being eliminated while employees that remain are forced to pick up the slack. A green light was given to the company in calling overtime anytime it wants.

The union, United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 1700, is a new local. The officers and stewards were appointed by the UAW regional director until elections can be held. It has been a year since production began in the plant, and there's a lot of sentiment to elect officers and stewards right away. So far, no date for elections has been set.

As the midnight October 15 strike deadline approached, it was clear that, despite Chrysler's record profits, the company was going for a new round of deep concessions. Workers' anger mounted.

Many had been through the experience of making concessions and then being laid off, losing their seniority, and losing their

Tentative pact reached in Chrysler strike

Continued from front page

Rank-and-file Chrysler workers and local officials have heard no official reports from UAW bargainers at this time.

Initial news reports and discussions this reporter had with workers on the picket lines and at the union hall indicate that Chrysler workers are pleased to hear that their main demand of wage and benefits parity with Ford and GM workers, along with "a little bit extra," is met by the tentative agreement.

Many U.S. Chrysler workers saw the Canadian UAW pact with Chrysler as a victory that helped them achieve parity in the U.S. negotiations. But most workers are withholding final judgment until they have an opportunity to hear from the union the details of the proposed settlement.

Chrysler workers are voting on the pact October 26 and 27. Until the membership ratification vote is completed, picket lines will remain up at all Chrysler plants.

Harris Freeman is a member of Local 1700 at the Chrysler Sterling Heights Assembly plant.

homes. And they'd also had some experience with the "team" approach.

As one SHAP worker put it, "Company production rewards of keychains, cups, flashlights, and quality badges don't put food on your table."

There was a growing desire for the union leadership to organize strike preparations. For weeks, however, nothing was said, no picket signs made, and no picket duty assigned, despite requests from union members.

Local officials organized stewards and committeemen to spend most of their time collecting several months' back union dues, instead of organizing for a strike. Most workers owed dues because there is no automatic dues check-off upon hiring. They had to be current to receive strike benefits.

Union members were also informed that picket duty would not begin until one week after the strike began, and would only be done from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

As the strike deadline hit, we heard reports that two Detroit-area plants had walked out by 8:30 p.m.

After lunchbreak, SHAP workers began chanting, "Walk! Walk!" At 11:59 p.m. workers walked off the line. Some chanted, "On strike" and "No contract, no work."

Thirty to 40 workers, primarily from the paint department, set up pickets that night at plant gates and were able to turn away delivery and transport trucks and direct workers to the union hall in the morning to sign up for picket duty.

Several hundred signed up and were on hand in the morning to relieve those who had stayed up all night to keep the gates covered.

A lot of workers' opinions have changed about the "team spirit" between workers and the company. Popular chants on one picket line were, "To be the best, get paid the less" and "Lee got his, we want ours." Lee Iacocca got a \$1.19 million bonus in 1984, plus at least another \$5 million in stock options.

Under current negotiations, Chrysler is asking all plants to adopt stricter work rules, lessen seniority rights, and reduce job classifications — conditions workers already live under at SHAP.

Bobbi Spiegler is a member of UAW Local 1700 and works in the paint department at the Sterling Heights Assembly plant.

Canada UAW gains wage parity at Chrysler

BY ANDREW PULLEY

WINDSOR, Ontario — Seven thousand Canadian auto workers jammed the Windsor Raceway here October 21 to hear the terms of the tentative settlement of the strike between the Canadian United Auto Workers (UAW) and Chrysler. More than 10,000 auto workers had been on the picket line since October 15.

Workers told this reporter that they thought the contract would be overwhelmingly ratified and were pleased that the strike was a short one. (The contract was subsequently ratified by a 97 percent yes vote.)

The Canadian UAW beat back Chrysler's biggest takeback demand, which was the reduction of job classifications from 120 to 6. This would have meant the loss of hundreds of jobs and would have weakened the union.

Chrysler did, however, impose a wage scale on the union under which new hires will now have to work for 18 months before receiving full pay. In a summary of the contract the workers received, union President Robert White said, "For Chrysler Canada, this agreement is a historic one, ending the long era of concessions. Chrysler Canada assemblers have won back a total of \$5.11 an hour."

The agreement is to last for 23 months and will give Chrysler workers a common contract expiration date and wage parity with their brothers and sisters at Ford and General Motors.

The Canadian union rejected profit-shar-



Militant/Kate Kaku

Strikers at Chrysler assembly plant in Sterling, Michigan, are already working with reduced number of job classifications which Chrysler would like to impose at all its plants.

Job classifications: major issue at Fenton

BY DEAN ELDER

FENTON, Mo. — More than 7,000 auto workers at two assembly plants here are part of the strike against Chrysler.

As the midnight strike deadline approached on October 15, members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 136 at Fenton Plant #1 walked off the job at 6:30 p.m. Soon after, pickets were up at the plant's main gate.

Many workers felt they were putting the company on notice that they are serious about calling a halt to giving Chrysler more concessions.

One Local 136 member told a television reporter why they walked out: "Because we don't want to work under a system like they have next door."

Next door is Fenton Plant #2, organized by UAW Local 110. The workers there are also out on strike.

Chrysler had closed Plant #2 in 1979. When the plant reopened in 1983, the com-

pany imposed what Chrysler calls its "New Concept" or "Team Concept."

Under this system the company has reduced the number of job classifications from about 80 to 17. Bosses can assign workers to any of a number of jobs, and can move workers from job to job, regardless of seniority. The bosses can use this to reward their "friends" or to "make examples" of workers who are outspoken. This system creates divisions among the workers and seriously weakens the union on the shop floor.

The "New Concept" has meant a loss of auto workers' jobs, with the company continually adding on to jobs, changing work assignments, and moving workers from job to job at will.

So, in addition to the fight for wage and benefits parity with Ford and General Motors, the union here is fighting to restore job classifications and seniority bidding rights.

Each worker will also get \$1,000 as a payment for concessions in earlier contracts.

Workers that I spoke with thought that the Canadian settlement will shorten the strike in the United States and help workers on the U.S. side of the border win a better contract than was previously thought possible.

Andrew Pulley is a member of UAW Local 5960.

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WAR & CRISIS
IN THE
AMERICAS

Nicaragua's state of emergency

The new emergency measures announced by Nicaragua's workers' and farmers' government were a response to what President Daniel Ortega called "the brutal aggression by North America and its internal allies."

"The state of emergency," he told the *New York Times*, has been declared fundamentally to combat the possibility of the *contras* [counterrevolutionaries] opening an internal front."

Since 1981 the U.S.-sponsored mercenary war against the Nicaraguan people has led to thousands dead, wounded, and kidnapped, as well as large-scale destruction.

The state of emergency declared by the Sandinista government, which includes curbs on a variety of civil liberties, is an act of self-defense by the Nicaraguan people.

Washington and the big-business media, however, have cited it as proof that Nicaragua is a totalitarian nightmare.

A State Department spokesman said, "The Sandinista government has taken a further step toward imposing a totalitarian regime on the people of Nicaragua."

Larry Speakes, speaking for the Reagan administration, said, "These individuals have trampled on civil liberties as very few countries have done in the past."

The editors of the *New York Times* denied that the contra war against Nicaragua was the reason for the decree. "A more likely explanation," they said, "is an eruption of discontent over a crumbling economy and military conscription."

The *Times* gives no proof for this claim. And the facts contradict it.

Despite increasing economic hardship caused by Washington's aggression and the decades of U.S. imperialist domination of Nicaragua, the government and revolution are supported by the overwhelming majority of the people.

The government is popular because it has built hospitals, schools, day-care centers, and housing that were denied the people under the U.S.-backed Somoza dictatorship.

The most convincing proof of the government's support is that it has armed the Nicaraguan people, who are organized into the army and popular militias, to carry out the defense of their homeland.

The *Times* also claimed that the imposition of the state of emergency reflected "a clear victory for Interior Minister Tomás Borge, who has long clamored for 'firmer measures,' especially against a hostile Roman Catholic Church."

This singling out of Borge as the alleged "hard-liner" is part of a long-standing campaign by Washington to destabilize Nicaragua and provoke divisions both within the Sandinista National Liberation Front and Nicaraguan government, and among supporters of the revolution.

But the Sandinista leadership and Nicaraguan working

people are united in their course of defending the revolution from U.S.-organized and inspired attacks — from the mercenaries in Honduras and Costa Rica to the capitalists, Catholic church hierarchy, and other internal allies of the counterrevolution.

The U.S. slander campaign against Nicaragua has only one purpose: to justify Washington's aid to the terrorists, who are killing Nicaraguan workers and peasants. Washington wants to win support from U.S. working people for these reactionary policies, in preparation for greater U.S. intervention.

President Ortega answered these charges in his October 21 speech to the United Nations. The U.S. government, he said, is "promoting a policy of state terrorism against the people of Nicaragua."

Why?

Because "Nicaragua is a living example of a small nation that has decided to be free." The U.S. rulers seek "to snatch that right away from us."

"The people of Nicaragua," he continued, "is shedding its blood to defend the people's right to self-determination and sovereignty. With the blood of our workers and peasants, of our young people, of our elderly, and even of our children, we are defending international law."

"We are defending the rights of the peoples and are waging this battle with the militant solidarity of the peoples of the world."

Washington's accusation of Nicaraguan totalitarianism couldn't be more hypocritical.

Even with the state of emergency, there are no government goon squads to terrorize people — as there are in El Salvador, Guatemala, Chile, and Honduras — all of whose governments are supported by Washington.

Under the state of emergency imposed by the U.S.-backed apartheid regime in South Africa, cops gun down Blacks with impunity.

In Nicaragua, the masses of people are using the arms provided by the government to beat back those who would once again enslave the proud people of Sandino.

The counterrevolutionaries are suffering blow after blow — militarily and politically.

The real totalitarianism threatening Nicaragua, an editorial in the Sandinista daily *Barricada* said, is "the totalitarianism of the Somozaist Guard with its jails and torture chambers, the totalitarianism of the capitalist exploiters and the landlords who fleece the peasants, the totalitarianism that Reagan, with his marines and mercenaries, wants to impose in Nicaragua as he did in Grenada."

The Nicaraguan workers and farmers have the sovereign right to do whatever is necessary to defend their revolution from destabilization.

Opponents of the U.S.-sponsored war against Nicaragua need to redouble our efforts to organize protest activities and get out the truth about the war Washington is organizing in Central America.

Arafat: democratic Palestine is goal of our struggle

Following are excerpts from a speech given by Yasser Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization, to the United Nations General Assembly on Nov. 14, 1974.

Mr. President, the roots of the Palestinian question reach back into the closing years of the 19th century, to that period we call the era of colonialism. . . . This is precisely the period during which Zionism as a scheme was born; its aim was the conquest of Palestinian land by European immigrants, just as settlers colonized and indeed raided most of Africa.

This is the period during which, pouring forth out of the West, colonialism spread into the furthest reaches of Africa, Asia, and Latin America, building colonies, everywhere cruelly exploiting, oppressing, plundering the peoples of these three continents. This period persists into the present. Marked evidence of its totally reprehensible presence can be readily perceived in the racism practiced both in South Africa and in Palestine.

And just as colonialism heedlessly used the wretched, the poor, the exploited as mere inert matter with which to build and to carry out settler colonialism, so too were destitute, oppressed European Jews employed on behalf of

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

world imperialism and of the Zionist leadership. European Jews were transformed into the instruments of aggression.

Our people cannot but maintain the heritage of our ancestors in resisting the invaders.

By contrast, we need only mention briefly some Israeli stands: its support of the Secret Army Organization in Algeria [death squads made up of French settlers who opposed the Algerian independence struggle in the early 1960s], its bolstering of the settler-colonialists in Africa — whether in the Congo, Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Azania, or South Africa — and its backing of South Vietnam against the Vietnamese revolution.

Mr. President, if the immigration of Jews to Palestine had had as its objective the goal of enabling them to live side by side with us, enjoying the same rights and assuming the same duties, we would have opened our doors to them as far as our homeland's capacity for absorption permitted.

But that the goal of this immigration should be to usurp our homeland, disperse our people, and turn us into second-class citizens — this is what no one can conceivably demand that we acquiesce in or submit to.

Therefore, since its inception, our revolution was not motivated by racial or religious factors. Its target was never the Jew as a person but racist Zionism and undisguised aggression. In this sense ours is also a revolution for the Jew as a human being as well. We are struggling so that Jews, Christians, and Moslems may live in equality, enjoying the same rights and assuming the same duties, free from racial or religious discrimination.

Mr. President, those who call us terrorists wish to prevent world public opinion from discovering the truth about us and from seeing the justice on our faces. They seek to hide the terrorism and tyranny of their acts and our own posture of self-defense.

[T]hose who wage war to occupy, colonize, and oppress other people — those are the terrorists. Those are the people whose actions should be condemned, who should be called war criminals, for the justice of the cause determines the right to struggle.

For many years now our people have been exposed to the ravages of war, destruction, and dispersion. It has paid in the blood of its sons that which cannot ever be compensated. . . . And yet all this has made our people neither vindictive or vengeful. Nor has it caused us to resort to the racism of our enemies. Nor have we lost the true method by which friend and foe are distinguished.

For we deplore all those crimes committed against the Jews; we also deplore all the real discrimination suffered by them because of their faith.

In my formal capacity as chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization and as leader of the Palestinian revolution, I proclaim before you that when we speak of our common hopes for the Palestine of tomorrow we include in our perspective all Jews now living in Palestine who choose to live with us there in peace and without discrimination.

We offer them the most generous solution that we might live together in a framework of just peace in our democratic Palestine.

Back Central America labor tour

The East Coast tour of trade union leaders from Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala is an important opportunity for U.S. unionists to have face-to-face meetings and discussions with their sisters and brothers.

These Central American unionists are working under different conditions than U.S. workers to advance the interests of labor.

In Guatemala and El Salvador, they must fight brutal, union-busting regimes that have murdered many workers and peasants.

The Nicaraguan unionists, on the other hand, strongly support the workers' and farmers' government of their country. It is the first government in Nicaragua's history to encourage union organizing, and to involve unionists and other working people in making the fundamental decisions that affect their lives.

The tour is a big step forward in building international working-class solidarity. Washington and the bosses fear this solidarity. That is why the State Department held up the visas of the two Nicaraguan union leaders, issuing them only after protests initiated by unionists who were involved in organizing the visit.

The timely appeals for mutual solidarity that the Central American unionists bring with them come at a time when workers and their allies in both Central America and the United States are under attack by the U.S. government and the corporations it serves.

There is a big difference in the scope of the attacks.

In Nicaragua and El Salvador, the U.S. rulers are waging a bloody war against working people.

In the United States, violent attacks aimed at busting unions are becoming more common, while the courts, National Labor Relations Board, and other government agencies usually rubber-stamp the wishes of the bosses.

The essential fact is that workers in this country and in Central America face a common enemy.

That common enemy is the class of owners of the giant corporations and banks, with their worldwide operations.

A.T. Massey Coal Co., which is trying to break the United Mine Workers of America, is owned by corporations that have big investments in South Africa and elsewhere.

Such corporations are propping up the racist apartheid regime in South Africa, which enables them to brutally exploit Black labor.

In Central America and other regions, the U.S. rulers have imposed crushing debt payments on Third World countries.

The common experiences of working people around the world were captured by African National Congress representative Themba Vilakazi when he shared a platform in Boston with the Central American union leaders. "When I hear my brothers and sisters talk about the exploitation of Central American workers," he said, "I think of our workers in South Africa. I hear the same thing."

It is clear that more and more trade unionists in this country are also beginning to "hear the same thing."

The upsurge in union solidarity with the struggle against apartheid in South Africa creates a favorable atmosphere for the discussion in the U.S. union movement about Washington's role in Central America. On South Africa, the union movement stands in opposition to the U.S. government's policy of "constructive engagement" with apartheid.

The policies Washington carries out in Central America are cut from the same cloth, and more and more unionists know it.

The fact that U.S. unionists have accepted an invitation from FENASTRAS, El Salvador's largest union federation, to attend its November convention, helps further the needed discussion. The support by unionists to the call by the CST, Nicaragua's largest union federation, for material aid and solidarity, is another indication of the possibilities.

Continuing support for the tour of Nicaraguan, Guatemalan, and Salvadoran unionists is clearly on the order of the day for unionists who want to advance international solidarity.

Washington's crime against Japanese Americans

BY PATTI HIYAMA

"We had less than one week to pack and sell all we owned. We could only bring what we could carry in two suitcases and had no idea where we were going."

"When we got to the camp, we saw a double row of barbed wire and guards in towers with guns. How could anyone call these relocation centers? They were concentration camps."

These are the voices of some of the 112,000 Japanese Americans who were forced to evacuate their homes,

TELEVISION REVIEW

farms, and businesses on the West Coast in the spring of 1942. They were put into 10 isolated concentration camps without trial, solely on the basis of their race. Two-thirds of them were U.S. citizens.

A few individuals decided to test their constitutional rights in court. Three of these men tell about their legal challenges, including their efforts to be declared innocent 40 years later, in the public-television documentary "Unfinished Business: The Japanese American Internment Cases."

The first half of the documentary focuses on the lives of the three resisters, interweaving interviews with footage of the concentration camps where Japanese Americans were held for as long as three years.

Min Yasui was a lawyer whose parents owned an apple orchard in Hood, Oregon. Since racism made it hard to get a job, he worked as an attaché of the Japanese consulate in Chicago. He resigned right after Pearl Harbor.

Deciding that the curfew imposed on all Japanese Americans in March 1942 violated his rights as a citizen, Yasui violated the curfew as a test case. He was given the

maximum sentence — one year in prison and a \$5,000 fine — and served nine months in solitary confinement after which he was put in a concentration camp.

Fred Korematsu was a welder from Oakland, California. His union, the Boilermakers, expelled all Japanese Americans from the shipyards after Pearl Harbor.

He was engaged to be married to a white woman at a time when it was illegal in California for whites to marry Japanese.

In a vain attempt to marry his fiancé, Korematsu changed his name and underwent minor plastic surgery. He refused to report for evacuation and was picked up on the streets three weeks after the evacuation deadline.

Gordon Hirabayashi, like his farmer parents, was a pacifist.

Hirabayashi refused to register for evacuation. At his trial the judge ordered the jury to convict him. The jury took 10 minutes to decide that he was guilty. He spent nearly two years in jail for his beliefs.

These three cases were appealed to the Supreme Court. In 1943 and 1944 the Supreme Court upheld the legality of the curfew, evacuation, and internment on the ground of "military necessity."

But, the documentary notes, not one Japanese American was convicted of espionage or sabotage during World War II. The doctrine of "military necessity" was based on the racist thesis that all Japanese Americans were inherently "disloyal" or that you could not tell a "loyal" from a "disloyal" Japanese because they all look alike.

In 1982 a University of California professor obtained previously unknown documents labeled "top secret" in a Freedom of Information Act request. These documents established that the U.S. government withheld, suppressed, and altered findings which confirmed there was no evidence of "disloyalty" among Japanese Americans.

These documents provide the legal basis for overturning the three convictions on the grounds of government misconduct.

An important feature of "Unfinished Business" is that it focuses on the attempt by the current generation of Japanese Americans to understand what their parents and grandparents are still reluctant to remember and discuss.

"Our parents felt guilt and shame and did not pass on stories about what happened in the camps. So we grew up not knowing our own history and culture," one third-generation Japanese American recounts.

Fred Korematsu himself refused to talk about his case in public until 1983, when he filed a petition to annul his conviction.

On Nov. 10, 1983, the judge overturned his conviction and for the first time internment of Japanese Americans was legally repudiated.

Min Yasui's conviction was annulled in January 1984, but the judge refused to rule on the question of government misconduct in suppressing evidence. Yasui is appealing the case and says: "Even if we are successful, this cannot erase the agony the people suffered or the humiliation we endured."

Gordon Hirabayashi is still awaiting a ruling in his case.

"Unfinished Business" is weak on one point. If you know nothing about the history of Japanese in this country, you could think that racism against the Japanese began after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

But Japanese immigrants were subject to widespread discrimination almost from the time they first arrived here. In 1942 they still could not become U.S. citizens, own or buy land, or marry whites. They were prevented from joining many trade unions and lived in segregated ghettos in the cities.

LETTERS

October 11

The New Paltz-Poughkeepsie area of upstate New York participated in the October National Anti-apartheid Protest Day with films, speeches, rallies, marches, and pickets.

Organized by the Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, the New Paltz actions began with a rally of workers from the area and students from local high schools and the State University of New York. The events took place on the SUNY New Paltz campus.

Keynote speaker Reverend MacComb talked about the existence of "pass laws" for migrant workers in this area similar to those that Blacks face in South Africa. He reported that a number of Haitian workers were jailed because they didn't have ID cards.

Rally participants marched to Barclay's Bank, which has large operations in South Africa. (The trustees of SUNY New Paltz, as well as the New Paltz City Council, have agreed to divest.)

Marchers chanted, "Barclay's means apartheid. Take your money out!" and "What's the word? Johannesburg. What's the cure? Divestment!" Bystanders joined the picket.

It was reported that the march in Poughkeepsie drew some 400 people.

Sam Chetta
Gail Schenkman
New Paltz, New York

Margaret Randall

The Immigration and Naturalization Service claims that it's because of legal technicalities regarding her citizenship that it wants to deport Margaret Randall, author of *Sandino's Daughters* and an opponent of the U.S. war drive in Central America. She is currently an assistant adjunct professor at the University of New Mexico.

But it's crystal clear that they want to exile her because she opposes their dirty war in Central America and other regions and defends the Cuban, Sandinista, and Vietnamese revolutions.

This fact was demonstrated in the Immigration and Naturalization Service report on the decision to deport Randall. In the report INS officials stated that they wanted to throw Randall out of the

country because in their view she's a dangerous revolutionary whose ideas should be suppressed and excluded from the United States.

But people are fighting back against this outrageous attack on democratic rights. A successful benefit for her was held here in Albuquerque on September 28 at the Salt of the Earth Bookstore.

Two days later the Nicaraguan ambassador to the United States, Dr. Carlos Tunnermann, was warmly received by about 750 people at the University of New Mexico.

He exposed the U.S. government's ruthless *contra* war against Nicaragua. Although this meeting had no direct relation to Randall's defense efforts, getting out the truth about the war can't help but aid the defense of the democratic rights of those who are speaking out against it.

Randall's defense is being organized through the Margaret Randall Legal Defense Committee, c/o Center for Constitutional Rights, 853 Broadway, 14th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10003; telephone (212) 674-3303.

RLP
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Flight KAL 007

I was unpleasantly surprised to read in Brian Williams' article on the Korean Air Lines 007 flight that "It was the *Militant* that took the lead at the time in answering the false charges being made by the big-business media."

At the time the *Militant* did not give banner coverage to the incident. I don't call this taking the lead, but rather underestimating the importance of the anti-Communist campaign.

I would attribute your error to your assumption that whatever goes on in the world that is not directly related to the wars in the Middle East and Central America is basically a distraction.

I also sense a certain anti-Sovietism cloaked under anti-Stalinism — as seen also in your downplaying of Gorbachev's arms offers to Reagan.

Stansfield Smith

Chicago, Illinois

Editor replies. The Sept. 16, 1984, issue of the *Militant* carried

a front-page editorial on KAL Flight 007.

The next four issues had articles on page one and editorials or major news analyses answering the U.S. government's lies surrounding the incident.

Storm clouds

Storm clouds are gathering at the State University of New Hampshire as students, faculty, and staff wage an intensifying campaign for divestment from South Africa.

On October 7 about 50 students constructed a shanty, representative of the type lived in by Black South Africans. Police made a futile attempt to stop the protest, but later retreated, forcing University President Gordon Haaland to eat his words, "We'll tear it down."

The building, which remains beneath the president's window, was named the "Steven Biko Humanities Library." The message painted boldly across the roof, plainly visible from the administration's office, reads "Divest now!"

The protesters are responding to last summer's vote by university trustees not to divest from South Africa. Following the vote officials said that they had divested, but careful scrutiny showed that they only sold 4 percent of their total holdings in companies that do business with South Africa. The protesters are demanding complete and immediate divestment.

The library has remained open and busy 24 hours per day and has received a positive response from nearly the entire campus.

It has been visited by members of the Young Socialist Alliance and the National Progressive Student Network.

Filled with educational materials on South Africa, the library is the focus of campus activity, the meeting place for the growing number of outraged students, and it is a press bureau.

Plans are under way on all three of the State University of New Hampshire campuses to present the students' views to the trustees and demand another vote.

Rick Kohn
Dover, New Hampshire



Factual publication

I have recently had the opportunity to read the *Militant*. It was handed to me by one of my fellow inmates who is a militant-minded individual like myself.

I find the publication very factual. I would very much like to stay abreast with the news in each issue.

This informative paper only enhances my effort to devastate racism in America. I hope to become a subscriber to the *Militant* by what ever means.

A prisoner
Capron, Virginia

Correction

Your article, "Kanak gets warm welcome from Minnesota Indians," in the October 18 *Militant* contains an unfortunate error. It refers to White Earth Anishinabe Indians fighting for return of stolen land as the "Anishinabe Akeeng Indians."

But Anishinabe Akeeng ("The People's Land") is the name of a coalition of White Earth Anishinabe allottees and heirs fighting to recover tribal lands guaranteed under the 1867 Treaty of the Mississippi.

Leaders of Anishinabe Akeeng include such prominent Indian leaders and activists as Vernon Bellecourt and Winona LaDuke.

For more information on this important struggle to defend Indian lands, readers of the *Militant* should see the May 1985 issue of "The Leading Feather: Voice of the Anishinabe."

It can be obtained from the White Earth Oral History Project, P.O. Box 356, White Earth, Minn. 56591.

Jay Ressler
Newport News, Virginia

The *Militant* special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. To help this important cause, send your contribution to: *Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund*, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

UMWA sponsors S. Africa miners' tour

BY DeANN RATHBUN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A delegation from the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) of South Africa opened a tour of the United States October 21 with a press conference at the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) here.

The miners had just completed a 21-day tour of Canada. They met with unionists and collected humanitarian aid for NUM members victimized by the companies during their September strike.

The Canadian tour was sponsored by the steelworkers union and the Canadian Labor Congress. The UMWA is coordinating the miners' tour in the United States.

The news conference was hosted by Joseph Corcoran, a UMWA national staff person, and Nomonde Ngubo, UMWA staff person assigned to the union's anti-apartheid campaign.

James Motlatsi, a gold miner who is the president of the NUM, opened the press conference by pointing out that Black workers were not allowed to organize into unions until 1979. The NUM, founded in 1982, is the fastest-growing trade union in South Africa, with 150,000 dues-paying members.

Mannoko Nchwe, research and information staff person for the NUM, explained that the union was caught a bit off guard during the September strike. They didn't expect the amount of police brutality that occurred, since they had followed all the procedures for a legal strike. In addition to the attacks by security guards and the

police, 3,000 miners were fired and many evicted during the three-day strike.

She explained that the union was forced to suspend the strike in order to protect its members. Currently the union is challenging the company and police action in South Africa's Industrial Court.

Nchwe said that this is the first case in South Africa to test the principles inherent in the right to hold a legal strike. Those principles include whether striking workers have the right to be protected from firings, evictions, and police harassment and brutality during the course of a work stoppage. The case was expected to be heard October 24.

Regardless of the outcome of the hearings, union leaders expect the strike to resume because the dispute over wages, holidays, and job categories reserved for white workers still exists.

The delegation also includes Abey LeRoux, a diamond mine worker and regional chairman, and Jeffrey Magida, a full-time instructor in the education department of the NUM.

The first week of their tour takes them to the coal mining areas of southern Illinois, Birmingham, and to the West Virginia-Kentucky border. There they will meet with miners striking the A.T. Massey Coal Company. Massey is owned by Royal Dutch Shell Corp. and Fluor Corp., both of which have big investments in South Africa.

They are also scheduled to visit Chicago, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.



Black miners in South Africa. Their union, the National Union of Mineworkers, poses growing challenge to apartheid regime's use of racist terror to guarantee near slave labor for white mine bosses. Three leaders of the NUM are touring United States as part of United Mine Workers of America's campaign against apartheid.

Central American unionists speak in U.S.

BY VALERIE JOHNSON
AND JON HILLSON

BOSTON — A concerted effort by the U.S. government to sabotage an East Coast tour of top Central American labor leaders has failed. The first leg of the tour began successfully here on October 13.

A national protest campaign by tour organizers forced the State Department to grant visas to two Nicaraguan labor officials who had been denied entry to the United States. Denis Meléndez Aguirre of the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST) and Irene Zuñiga of the National Union of Public Employees (UNE) joined the tour at its second stop in New York City.

Honduran trade union leader Leonor Meza was compelled to remain in her country for an important union election.

The Nicaraguan unionists spoke on platforms with Francisco Acosta, U.S. and Canadian representative of the Salvadoran union federation FENASTRAS; Marta Alicia Rivera, U.S. representative of the Salvadoran teachers union ANDES; and Miguel Cifuentes, international representative of the Guatemalan labor federation CNUS.

They spoke to hundreds at union gatherings. Receptions with U.S. union officials were organized by the New England Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU); American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); staff unions at Boston City Hospital; Service Employees International Union (SEIU); Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA); the District 2 convention of the United Electrical Workers (UE); and the International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE).

Rivera told a citywide meeting that Salvadoran government repression has driven more than 4,000 teachers, along with hundreds of thousands of other Salvadorans, from their land. But, she said, U.S. public opinion, especially the consciousness of "working people and trade unionists, has changed qualitatively and become more aware" since Vietnam.

"Redouble your efforts," she urged the crowd.

"We are your neighbors," Francisco Acosta told the spirited gathering. "Our stand is: we need peace, but peace with justice, a peace that will allow us to build up a new society."

Nicaraguan embassy official Roberto Vargas explained that Nicaragua's recently announced state of emergency decree "is a direct product of the U.S.-financed war against Nicaragua."

United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 2341 President Dave Slaney presented Vargas with a check for \$1,700, raised by U.S. antiwar trade union activists.

Joining the Central Americans on the platform was Themba Vilakazi of the African National Congress (ANC), who hailed the Nicaraguan and Salvadoran revolutions.

"When I hear my brothers and sisters talk about the exploitation of Central American workers, I think of our workers in South Africa. I hear the same thing," he said.

Workers, Vilakazi said, "are in the forefront of the struggle in South Africa. The same can equally be said about Central America and South America."

"Viva the struggle for self-determination in Central America!" he said to cheers. "Viva the struggle for sovereignty! Viva the revolution!"

A high point of the tour was when Acosta and Rivera spoke at shift meetings of IUE Local 201 at the General Electric plant in Lynn, Massachusetts. With 8,000 members, it is one of the largest union locals in the state.

The two Salvadoran trade union leaders addressed nearly 100 workers. They attended a dinner at the union hall and received almost \$100 in donations from workers. Their presence was announced in Local 201's monthly newspaper. One IUE member told the *Militant* that Acosta's emphasis on international labor solidarity was warmly received by IUE members.

Emphasizing the common interests of U.S. and Salvadoran workers, Acosta invited the IUE members to attend the upcoming FENASTRAS conference in El Salvador on November 9 and 10. Several members expressed interest in going to El Salvador for the convention.

Acosta also addressed a reception in Lawrence, Massachusetts, sponsored by the Central America Solidarity Association. Thirty-three people attended, including members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU), MTA, and AFSCME. Organizers of the meeting had spoken before two ILGWU local executive boards and met with northern New England regional ILGWU leaders at the union's annual district council to announce the tour.

The delegates also spoke at a high school and college meeting of nearly 200 students and in Boston's Latino community.

The Central American Labor Leaders Tour was initiated by nine East Coast labor solidarity committees and was endorsed by scores of union locals and officials, including seven International union presidents.

It includes stops in the New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C., areas.

Its main purpose, Acosta told Lawrence labor and solidarity activists, is to deepen what the Reagan administration failed to stop: "Worker to worker exchanges, discussions, and friendship to stop U.S. intervention in Central America."

For more information on upcoming meetings, call (617) 277-7259.

Columbia U. workers win contract

BY PAT GROGAN

NEW YORK — Columbia University's 1,050 clerical workers won their first union contract after a five-day strike. Members of District 65 of the United Auto Workers union voted overwhelmingly October 22 to approve a three-year contract.

The union won certification last February after years of a bitter fight against the university to unionize secretaries and clerical workers. It has been fighting for a contract since April.

The new contract includes a 6 percent wage increase, improved medical benefits, strengthened affirmative action protection, and the guarantee that workers don't have to perform personal errands for their bosses.

One of the central issues raised by the union was pay equity. The union's members are 76 percent women and about half are Blacks, Puerto Ricans, and other victims of racist discrimination.

The union is fighting for an end to race and sex discrimination that results in the low wages paid in jobs predominantly held by women workers and Blacks and Latinos

— even though the jobs are similar or comparable to much higher-paying jobs.

The union showed documentation that Black and Latino clerical workers were paid \$1,000 a year less than whites in similar jobs. They also showed that women clerical workers earn as much as \$3,000 less than male maintenance workers.

The slogan "Justice Now" summed up the union's fight for improvements in wages and benefits.

The other two main unions on campus gave strong support to the strike. They are: Local 241 of the Transport Workers Union, which represents 700 maintenance and other workers; and Local 1199 of the Retail, Wholesale, and Department Store Workers Union, which represents cafeteria, library, and payroll employees.

The strikers got backing from Columbia students and faculty. "Basta ya! [Enough!] Students support District 65," read a banner strung across campus.

Although the strikers did not ask that classes be cancelled, professors held 550 classes off campus to show solidarity with the strike.